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HEART AND STROKE FOUNDATION GRANT INITIATIVE YORK REGION EMS AND LOCAL MUNICIPAL PARTNERSHIPS

(Regional Council at its meeting on January 24, 2008, directed the Commissioner of Community and Health Services to look into the feasibility of an instructional video being developed and placed on the York Region and Heart and Stroke Foundation web sites to assist the public in the use of the defibrillators being placed in public buildings throughout the Region and local municipalities.)

The Health and Emergency Medical Services Committee recommends the adoption of the recommendations contained in the following report, December 13, 2007, from the Commissioner of Community and Health Services:

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

1. The Commissioner of Community and Health Services be authorized to execute a Memorandum of Understanding with the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario for the reimbursement of funds to the Region for its purchase of Automated External Defibrillators and training costs.
2. The Commissioner of Community and Health Services be authorized to execute Memorandums of Understanding with municipalities entering into the York Region Public Access Defibrillator Program (Heart Alive), subject to review by Legal Services.
3. Council approve the receipt and expenditure of Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario grant funding related to the Public Access Defibrillator initiative for the purchase of Automated External Defibrillators and related costs as outlined in this report.
4. Council approve the sole source purchase of Automated External Defibrillator equipment and maintenance package through Medtronic of Canada Ltd. to ensure compatibility with existing equipment, training methods and quality assurance practices.

2. PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to outline the role of York Region EMS in facilitating the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario grant application process which will enable

participating municipalities to access Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) and training through the York Region Heart Alive program. It also provides the rationale for sole sourcing the purchase of related equipment from Medtronic of Canada Ltd.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 York Region EMS' Heart Alive program has been protecting staff and visitors to regional sites since 2003

Historically, York Region EMS has been involved in the promotion of healthy communities through its Public Access Defibrillator Program, Heart Alive, since 2003. Its goal is to improve health outcomes linked to heart health promotion, prevention of sudden cardiac arrest and the increase in survival rates from sudden cardiac arrest in York Region.

To date, the Heart Alive program has trained over 600 Regional staff, York Regional Police employees, and municipal employees in the City of Vaughan and the Town of Georgina. Heart Alive monitors and maintains 31 Regional Public Access Defibrillation sites with a total of 65 AEDs.

3.2 Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario to consider grant applications from local partners committed to operating Public Access Defibrillator programs in their communities

On March 29, 2007 Ontario's Ministry of Health Promotion announced a \$3 million donation to the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario. The funds will go towards the placement of 1,000 life-saving AEDs for priority public sites across Ontario and the training of personnel in their use.

Subsequent to the announcement, York Region EMS staff were approached by the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario to take the lead in facilitating the rollout of this initiative to York Region municipalities. The centralized application process is to be coordinated through upper tier municipalities and interested lower tier municipalities will partner with them which includes entering into Regional Public Access Defibrillator programs. The Commissioner of Community Services, Housing and Health Services wrote to all nine Municipal Chief Administrative Officers outlining the application process to address the available funding. The correspondence also included a request for an inventory of current AEDs within their municipal system and details outlining their current needs. To date, eight municipalities have responded with applications for a total of 59 sites requiring 63 AEDs. The application for Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario grant money is for the sole purpose of acquiring public access defibrillators for municipalities partnering with Heart Alive.

4. ANALYSIS AND OPTIONS

4.1 Local municipalities access AEDs through the York Region Heart Alive program

As part of the centralized process, municipalities have the ability to access AEDs and training through York Region's application which will be submitted under the Heart Alive program. One of the benefits to extending the Heart Alive program to local municipal sites will be the leveraging of existing program infrastructure to support an integrated region-wide initiative. The Heart Alive program will provide the following support to participating municipalities:

- Coordination and purchase of AEDs directly from supplier/manufacturer
- Site assessment to determine optimum AED placement
- Training for six municipal staff per AED
- Coordination of maintenance program through Memorandum of Understanding

4.2 Relationship to Vision 2026

The extension of local municipal sites into the Heart Alive program link directly to York Region's Vision 2026 goals of Responding to the Needs of Our Residents, Engaged Communities and a Responsive Region.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The initial costs for AEDs, training and maintenance will be covered through the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario grant process to a maximum of \$3,500 per AED and will be cash flowed to York Region upon receipt of satisfactory evidence of installation and training in respect to each unit placed at each site. An invoice for each AED and related training will be issued by the Region to the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario for reimbursement.

Based on the current number of public access defibrillators requested by participating municipalities, it is estimated that York Region will receive approximately \$220,500 from the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario. Accordingly, if we receive additional requests before the application deadline, then we would anticipate receiving additional funds.

In order to ensure compatibility with the existing training and quality assurance program components, local municipalities entering into the Heart Alive program will be required to procure like equipment. The Heart Alive program has been developed for the use of the Medtronic CR Plus AED and it is therefore recommended that the purchase of the AED equipment be sole sourced through Medtronic of Canada Ltd. in accordance with Clause 10 of the Region's Purchasing By-law.

Participating municipalities will be responsible for the costs of future replacement/new equipment, annual maintenance and additional training that may be required and will be provided through the Heart Alive program.

6. LOCAL MUNICIPAL IMPACT

The initiative of implementing AEDs in York Region municipal facilities will enable the Region to work towards the objective of building a total community response system to address sudden cardiac arrest.

7. CONCLUSION

The Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario's Public Access Defibrillator initiative provides municipalities with the opportunity to access AED equipment and training through the Heart Alive program. Participating municipalities will benefit from the expertise of the EMS program coordinator. Heart Alive's partnership with local municipalities will increase the potential to save lives from sudden cardiac arrest.

For more information on this report, please contact Norm Barrette, Acting General Manager, Emergency Medical Services of the Community and Health Services Department.

The Senior Management Group has reviewed this report.