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### **EXPANSION OF THE HEART ALIVE PROGRAM TO EMERGENCY SHELTERS AND REGIONAL TRANSIT SUPPORT VEHICLES**

**The Community and Health Services Committee recommends the adoption of the recommendations contained in the following report dated February 26, 2010, 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 enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario for reimbursement of funds to the Region for its purchase of Automated External Defibrillators for emergency shelters located in York Region (Leeder Place, Porter Place, and Youth Shelter) and York Region Transit support vehicles.
2. The Commissioner of Community and Health Services be authorized to enter into future Memoranda of Understanding with the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario and other community partners for the placement of Automated External Defibrillators in community settings through the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario Automated External Defibrillator program for further Heart Alive program expansion. In addition, Council approve the receipt and expenditure of the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario funding related to Automated External Defibrillators initiatives for the purchase of Automated External Defibrillators and related costs.
3. 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.
4. Staff report back to Council detailing the history, current progress and future program plans of the Heart Alive Program.

#### **2. PURPOSE**

This report is requesting that the Commissioner of Community and Health Services be authorized to enter into Memoranda of Understanding with the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario to accept funding for present and future expansion projects that were announced in September 2009. This report also requests Council approval for the

Heart Alive expansion as a result of a partnership with York Region Transit (YRT) and the installation of equipment and training of emergency shelter staff.

### **3. BACKGROUND**

Nearly one third of all sudden cardiac arrests occur in a public place. For this reason, the Heart and Stroke Foundation recommends that Canadians have widespread access to automated external defibrillators, particularly in locations which are at high risk for incidents of sudden cardiac arrest. Furthermore, that people be trained and encouraged to apply cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and Automated External Defibrillator skills when needed.

#### **York EMS Heart Alive has been protecting staff, residents and visitors in Regional facilities since 2003**

Currently York Region's Heart Alive Public Access Defibrillation program has placed Automated External Defibrillators in different locations throughout the region and provided training to staff in partnership with the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario and the Chase McEachern Foundation.

To date, 56 Automated External Defibrillators have been installed in Regional facilities and 96 Automated External Defibrillators have been installed in local municipal locations. Additionally, nearly 500 staff are trained annually in order to cover all installation sites. In all, over 5,000 people have been trained in life-saving CPR and first aid techniques since the inception of the Heart Alive program.

#### **The Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario has provided the Region funding for 26 additional Automated External Defibrillators**

Further funding provided by the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario initiative announced in September 2009 provides for the acquisition of an additional 26 Automated External Defibrillators to the Region's Heart Alive Public Access Defibrillation program.

#### **Automated External Defibrillators saved two people in the Region in 2009**

In the last half of 2009, two people were saved from sudden cardiac arrest as a result of an Automated External Defibrillator being immediately available. One victim was a resident who collapsed while travelling on a GO train and the second was a resident who collapsed while attending a Town of Georgina Council meeting.

#### **4. ANALYSIS AND OPTIONS**

##### **YRT facilities will be protected with Automated External Defibrillator**

The funding provided by the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario will permit equipping YRT enforcement and operations support staff with Automated External Defibrillators. Deploying Automated External Defibrillators with YRT operational staff will facilitate the response to a sudden cardiac arrest emergency at YRT stations and on vehicles.

##### **Regional emergency shelters will receive Automated External Defibrillators**

Emergency shelters including Blue Door's Leeder Place Family Shelter, Porter Place Men's Shelter and Youth Shelter are public drop-in centers that also accommodate overnight residents. Given the number of residents using these centres, the placement of Automated External Defibrillators would further contribute to the emergency readiness of these sites.

#### **5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

The costs of Automated External Defibrillators, and initial training, will be covered through the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario grant process to a maximum of \$3,500 per Automated External Defibrillator. Funding will be flowed to the Region upon receipt of evidence of installation and training with respect to each unit placed. An invoice for each Automated External Defibrillator and related training will be issued by the Region to the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario for reimbursement.

Based on the 26 defibrillators that are the subject of this report, the full cost recovery for the purchase is estimated to be \$91,000 and will be recovered from the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario. On-going maintenance and support of the purchased Automated External Defibrillators will be incorporated into the Heart Alive program.

Future program expansion will be in line with new funding opportunities from the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario resulting in no tax levy impacts.

In order to ensure seamless additions to the existing Heart Alive program, it is recommended that the purchase of the Automated External Defibrillator equipment be sole-sourced through Medtronic Ltd. of Canada. Furthermore, sole-sourcing will permit the completion of annual maintenance of Automated External Defibrillators under the existing maintenance contract between York Region and Medtronic for Heart Alive Automated External Defibrillators.

## **6. LOCAL MUNICIPAL IMPACT**

The planned expansion of the Heart Alive Public Access Defibrillation program will take place across all nine municipalities in the Region.

## **7. CONCLUSION**

The Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario's Automated External Defibrillator initiative provides the public the ability to access Automated External Defibrillator equipment and training through the Heart Alive Public Access Defibrillation program. The Region's Heart Alive partnership with Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario and participating partners will increase the potential to save lives from sudden cardiac arrest. In order to ensure appropriate and thoughtful continuation of the program and the maintenance of all costs, staff will report back to Council on the past history and future direction of the program.

For more information on this report, please contact Norm Barrette, General Manager, Emergency Medical Services at extension 4709.

The Senior Management Group has reviewed this report.