



PRESS RELEASE

Non-Emergent Patient Transfer Study

At its regular board meeting of Thursday, March 6, 2014, the KDSB Board of Directors:

- Received an update on the Non-Emergent Patient Transfer (NEAT) Study completed in October 2013.
- The report was commissioned by the Northwest LHIN (NW LHIN). The NW LHIN formally received the report on February 12, 2014.
- The NW LHIN meeting was attended by the nine (9) member primary health care consortium who participated in the study.
 1. Dryden Regional Health Centre;
 2. Lake of the Woods District Hospital;
 3. Red Lake Margaret Cochenour Hospital;
 4. Riverside Health Care;
 5. Sioux Lookout Meno Ya Win Health Centre;
 6. Atikokan General Hospital;
 7. Rainy River DSSAB EMS (Land Ambulance);
 8. ORNGE;
 9. KDSB EMS (Land Ambulance).
- The study observations and conclusions were consistent with previous studies undertaken by Ministry of Health & Long Term Care on Non-Emergent Patient Transfers with EMS emergent resources.
- Non-Emergent Patient Transfers by EMS land ambulance services has been an issue in the Province of Ontario, particularly in northern and rural regions, for a very long time. At present, there is another study being undertaken in the Northeast LHIN.
- Major conclusions and observations of the NW LHIN study included:
 - a. The utilization of EMS emergent resources undermines the primary EMS legislative obligation of providing 911 emergent services.
 - b. There are significant policy, legislative and financial inconsistencies and inequities being applied to land ambulance services by the Ministry of Health & Long Term Care for the provision of non-emergent transfers – particularly between rural and northern VS urban EMS services.
 - c. Rural & northern EMS/land ambulance services are a fundamental component of the primary health care system in Ontario.
- The KDSB Chair will be forwarding a letter to the Chair of the NW LHIN, Ms. L.Joy Warkentin and the Premier of Ontario to encourage them to take a leadership role in resolving this important and long standing issue for northern and rural municipalities and EMS services in the province.

Barry Baltessen, Chair

Dan McNeill, CAO