Perth and Smiths Falls District Hospital
Executive Committee
Wednesday, May 20, 2020, 11:30 a.m.
Teleconference

Present: G. Church, B. Guppy, J. Hewitt, D. Howard

Regrets: Dr. K. Stolee

In Attendance: K. Kelly, Recording Secretary

The discussions of the Executive Committee during the COVID-19 Pandemic are treated as closed session notes.

Closed session at 11:30 a.m.

D. Howard suggested that as COVID-19 matters have settled into a new rhythm, the weekly Executive updates could be cancelled. However, should the situation change, the group would reconvene.

COVID-19 Updates
Dr. Guppy advised that a more fulsome report will be shared at Tuesday's board meeting.

CAC
There have been changes to testing and people can now self-refer. The government desires that more people are to be tested. The PSFDH CAC will continue to be appointment based, drive-through model.

Dr. Guppy advised that matters are settling into a new normal flow. There are currently six in patients with 4 or 5 patients waiting to return home (LTC.) Impediments remain regarding repatriation. PSFDH is engaging the help of the medical officer of health.

Ramping Up
Directive No. 2 will be amended to permit hospitals to ramp up services (surgical, DI, etc.) The ramping up process will have a coordinated regional approach.

Reporting deadlines extended
The BPSA requirements to complete submissions have been moved out to June 30. AGM requirements are to be completed by August 31. The Auditors have all of the hospital information but are having their own human resource issues which may delay the completion. B. Allen will have more information at the upcoming Finance meeting.

COVID related expenses
Hospitals are required to submit the completed ministry template for COVID-19 related expenses by June 22. PSFDH has forecasted costs and expenses. Further clarification is required on what can be tracked for reimbursement.

Pandemic Pay
The estimated pay out will be $200,000/month. There is some contention as not all front line staff are included. The OHA is advocating to have this corrected. Nothing has been paid out but the pay out will be retroactive.

Physician Pay
This has not yet been implemented. Hospitals are waiting for Ministry clarification. Dr. K. Stolee and Dr. B. Guppy have sent a communication to physicians for their information.

DRAFT

Cash Advance Submission – Dr. B. Guppy confirmed that the document will be submitted today. He confirmed also that the current line of credit situation is stable until July 2020. The covering letter (addressed to R. Discenza, Transitional Lead, Ontario Health East Region) of the submission sets out to the Ministry that PSFDH cannot further extend the existing line of credit. He noted that the LHIN did support the general position of the hospital.

Discussion ensued regarding contingencies if the cash advance request was not approved. PSFDH will approach the bank to extend the line of credit.

ALC/Retirement Home Partner Update

Dr. Guppy confirmed that PSFDH has

- Identified patients to engage re: relocation to retirement home
- PSFDH will work with the patient and family to obtain consents
- The matter has been discussed with the hospital insurer regarding the discharge of hospital patients to this setting. There may be liability if sending patients to a less favourable environment.
- The draft agreement has been shared with the insurers for their review.
- Discussion re: call with full board
- A media release has been drafted and it would be joint with the retirement home.

Discussion ensued regarding whether or not the hospital should be relocating patients given the COVID-19 pandemic. The proposed arrangement was initially considered in a non-COVID-19 environment.

Dr. Guppy confirmed that the retirement home beds are funded by the Ministry and the ALC hospital in-patients would not be moving to the retirement home environment but to the long term care section. He added that the retirement home is creating the right environment to better support the type of patient being relocated.

J. Hewitt supports more transparency and suggested speaking with MPPs in an effort to control the message and to avoid being on a defensive. All agreed that prepared statements should be in place with the message that the movement would support the enhanced quality of life for patients.

It is anticipated that the retirement home will manage the messaging to their current retirement home residents. Dr. Guppy will also speak with the Medical Officer of Health.

The members discussed the quality, public relations and financial risks for relocating ALC patients to the retirement home. The members generally supported the great initiative to place inpatients in a more supportive LTC environment while opening up bed capacity at hospital. The patients would be swabbed before being relocated. PSFDH has created quality metrics to monitor. If PSFDH does not move the full number of patients, it will be continue to pay for the space whether or not the beds are occupied.

D. Howard suggested that a conference call be set up with the full board to discuss the matter.

J. Hewitt commented that he understands that it is a good initiative for the patient but other parties (patients, families, RH residents) may not feel so positive in light of negative COVID-19 incidents. All agreed that they want this initiative to be successful for patients and their families. Dr. Guppy advised that PSFDH has identified nine ALC inpatients that would fit the criteria.

No conference call to be convened at this point. There will be more discussion at Tuesday's board meeting. Dr. Guppy will inquire about answers to legal and insurance questions.

Dr. B. Guppy appreciated today's discussion and will not sign the proposed agreement pending detailed discussion with the board.

PPE Measures

- There are many measures in place to protect staff and patients

- PSFDH continues to monitor the situation to determine when we can safely relax some PPE measures;
- We will speak with Medical Officer of Health regarding any changes

Chief of Staff Items

- PSFDH team is working through OR precautions and increasing access to urgent cases

Executive Committee – Meeting Frequency

J. Hewitt commented that there is a level of trust with receiving regular reports and conveying messages to the full board. He offered his support to continue the regular meetings. Discussion ensued. It was agreed that the upcoming meetings would be cancelled and reinstated when needed.

End of call at 12:34 p.m.

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