Perth and Smiths Falls District Hospital
Executive Committee
Wednesday, April 8, 2020
11:30 a.m.

Present: G. Church, Dr. 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.

D. Howard set out that the Executive Committee will meet regularly by teleconference. She will prepare regular updates to the full board based on the meeting.

Hospital Update
Dr. B. Guppy reported that PSFHD is presently at 2/3 capacity and it has seen some COVID-19 activity. He noted that there were two critical care patients who were appropriately transferred out. All systems are working well to date. The patient care areas have been organized into hot and cold zones so as to minimize patient movement. All staff having direct patient care have the required PPE available. PSFDH has been an early adopter of this PPE measure.

PPE conservation efforts underway with most inventory levels okay. The current situation is different in that staff are working hard to practice good PPE stewardship. Ordinary times, staff would see a complete change of PPE with every patient encounter. PSFDH is following all provincial guidelines with regular updates to staff and physicians to ensure their safety.

Discussion ensued regarding concerns for maintaining appropriate PPE supply levels. 3SO is working hard to source products or alternates when necessary. 3SO standards have been relaxed to support acquiring supplies by hospitals. Allocation to hospitals is based on the normal utilization and not necessarily reflective of initial weeks responding to COVID pandemic.

There is a broader PPE strategy and we are connected to that group be given to PSFDH.

Hand sewn masks have been prepared for use (not yet implemented).

Collection of Used PPE Items
The Ministry requested hospitals to collect used PPE for the purpose of reprocessing and reusing. Guidance related to reprocessing has not yet been received. There are two preferred reprocessing methods:

1. hydrogen peroxide
2. ultraviolet c light

Both methods are effective and when PPE is treated with either method would allow the item to be reused safely. Collection of used PPE begins today at PSFDH.

PSFDH ordered a reprocessing machine on Friday, April 3 (STERRAD) which can be used for other items beyond the pandemic (PPE). The cost for the unit is $116,000.

Postponing Procedures and Services – the hospital is working with clinicians to determine the priorities of requisitions.

ALC – PSFDH has fewer ALC in-patients. Recently had a high number (43) and now have only 16 ALC in-patients. Discussion ensued. Dr. Guppy will connect with area retirement homes regarding placement of low complexity ALC patients to support hospital bed capacity. One proposed retirement home partner is in outbreak and no patients can be moved to that location.

Modelling Framework – Dr. Guppy spoke to the modelling framework and information which shows the penetration rate of COVID-19 within our population. It provides a sense of how many inpatient beds may be required with an anticipated 30% population penetration. He offered to prepare a summary to share with the Executive Committee.

There has been some thought given to off-site locations to support potential patient overflow and community needs. However, there are many logistically issues to consider such as human resources, supplies, equipment, other equipment resources, etc. Dr. Guppy noted that internal groups are looking at other areas to create capacity if needed.

Succession Planning Update – Dr. Guppy has not yet spoken with either of the two vice presidents but will connect with them today.

Ethical/Decision-making Framework – related to critical care triaging is not yet implemented as it may require health care legislative change. There has been significant amount of work regionally that we are participating. There is a different approach to critical care and the application of criteria (details have not been publically shared at this point.)

Staff Morale – presently okay with some higher levels of stress. The management team is working hard and meets daily. The Incident Command Team meets daily as well. Managers are participating in a rotating day off.

Reconfigured Chapel Space – area to support needs of patients, staff and physicians when needed.

Other:
Dr. Guppy provided an update on the regional work and noted that 19 tables have been created but not yet actioned. Our key partner is the District Health Unit and local providers; BG speaks regularly with BGH and Almonte – some contingency planning (OBS); sharing PPE when possible; will share reprocessing equipment when operational

A Town Hall with MPP Steve Clark was held and involved a call-out to every to Leeds & Grenville landline. This may be something that Lanark County could also host as it was well received.

End of call at 12:32 p.m.

DRAFT