



Report To:	Program Planning Committee
From:	Michael Maclsaac, Chief of EMS
Date:	September 22, 2010
Re:	Public Access Defibrillation (PAD) Program Update

## **RECOMMENDATION**

That this report is an update to previously provided information and reaffirmation of our current situation in regards to the Public Access Defibrillation (PAD) Program.

## **REPORT**

### **Purpose**

The purpose of this report is to provide the DSB Program Planning Committee with an update on the PAD Program and maintenance requirements..

### **Background**

In September of 2009, former Director of EMS Jeff Horseman presented a report entitled, "2009 Public Access Defibrillation Program Evaluation & Recommendation Report". This report detailed the Public Access Defibrillation (PAD) program and 3 possible directions to pursue. The DSB Board approved the following by resolution: That the Manitoulin-Sudbury [DSB] supports the PAD program; That the [Chief of] EMS develop options to support this activity including initial training, recertification training, inventory control, and all other aspects of the program.

### **Current Issues**

Since the original report we have received 21 additional Automatic External Defibrillators (AED's) which are being introduced into our communities as part of the PAD program. This brings a total of 76 AED's in the Manitoulin-Sudbury area. One change with the latest deployment has been the introduction of mobile units. We have used this most recent deployment to promote Tiered Response Agreements with local fire and police departments to assist in EMS response time standards. While this

initiative assists with the new ambulance response time standard, it does require additional training hours for participating organizations.

The 2011 new ambulance response time for Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB has been produced and is awaiting Board approval. As noted above, this new Response Time plan has greater chances of success with the newest additions to the PAD program.

There is further preliminary discussion that a fourth round of PAD announcements will be made shortly. While it is not expected to be as great as previous rounds, we can expect that our group of AED's will number between 80 and 90 by the midpoint of next year.

Additionally, there has been an increase in staffing for the EMS Department that affects the ability to deliver the PAD program. Based on a Business Case presented last autumn, the EMS Department now has a full-time Superintendent of Training. Part of the responsibility of this position is to monitor and assist with the PAD program. While this position and tasks associated with it are new, we anticipate that with the assistance of DSB Ontario Works Training we should be able to provide some level of re-training where indicated but we may not be able to meet everyone's retraining needs.

It is important to note that one of the governing principles of a public access defibrillator is that it requires zero training to use. It is user friendly and guides the user through the appropriate steps. Since the Chase McEachern Act protects people from liability if they assist someone by using a defibrillator at an emergency and also protects those who make defibrillators available in good faith, training on its use, while beneficial, is not essential. If the DSB wishes to pursue additional training relating to this program, consideration would be needed in utilizing current staff trained to deliver the program (with associated replacement from duty costs) or an outside source. This would be where the assistance of Ontario Works Training becomes essential. Understanding that there are going to be 80-90 sites requiring from 5 to 16 hours of training every 3 years (average of recommended guidelines), we would require 32 days per year strictly for PAD training in addition to travel and preparation time, which will increase the total to approximately 50 days per year.

### **Funding Parameters**

The 2010 budget allowed for an increase to the Equipment Reserve in the amount of \$10,000 allowing for future purchases within the PAD program. Additionally, the EMS Operating budget was enhanced with \$20,000 to accommodate the costs of maintaining the expendable supplies associated with the PAD program.

The upcoming 2011 budget has a plan that allows for an alteration in this allotment whereby \$20,000 will be moved from the operating budget into the Equipment Reserve bringing the Reserve total to \$30,000. This change allows for a replacement plan of the PAD units themselves. It is also anticipated that there will still be enough within the operating budget to allow for replacement of expendable supplies such as batteries, and actual defibrillation pads (both adult and pediatric).

The following chart depicts costs associated with the PAD Program under different circumstances.

		Adult Pads	Paed Pads	Batteries	Total Yearly Operating Expenses	PAD Replacement 7 yrs (est.)
	expiry	5 yrs	2 yrs	3yrs (est.)		
	per unit	\$ 190	\$ 118	\$ 90	\$ 127	\$ 2,585
Yearly Costs	based on 76	\$ 2,888	\$ 4,484	\$ 2,280	\$ 9,652	\$ 28,066
	based on 80	\$ 3,040	\$ 4,720	\$ 2,400	\$ 10,160	\$ 29,543
	based on 90	\$ 3,420	\$ 5,310	\$ 2,700	\$ 11,430	\$ 33,236

Additionally, as mentioned above there are costs associated with ongoing training hours for each unit on the average of 50 days per year. This cost would be absorbed utilizing current Human Resources (EMS Superintendent of Training and DSB Ontario Works Training) to provide the training while on duty. Depending on the needs of each site, there may be the need for additional costs of using outside agencies to provide training where the current in-house resources are not able to.

### Conclusion

The PAD Program for Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB is a very important life saving initiative in the communities we serve. It is however not without its challenges. Managing 76 units across our districts can be difficult.

Maintenance of the PAD Program under the existing structure appears to be manageable at the current level. The units themselves are relatively maintenance free with anticipated replacement at 7 years. Regular ongoing costs include replacing of expendable supplies as they expire or are used. Retraining, while not required under the guiding principles of this program, could be of value to certain sites. This retraining would be accomplished by using in-house personnel whenever possible.

Currently the program is being well managed through the efficient use of the EMS Department's additional staffing. With further assistance of the DSB Ontario Works Training and the possible use of outside training agencies, no major hurdles are anticipated in the near future. Continual review of the PAD program is essential to ensure that it remains manageable both financially and administratively.