MINUTES

Emergency Medical Services Resource & Deployment Advisory Task Force
10:00 a.m.
Tuesday, March 10, 2009
Convention Centre, Room 207

Present:  Councillor S. Merulla (Chair)
A. Prieur (Vice Chair)
Councillor R. Pasuta
M. Smithson

Absent:  Councillor S. Duvall (other City business)

Also Present:  B. Browett, Director, Emergency Medical Services
J. Summers, EMS Platoon Manager
M. Posteraro, President, OPSEU Local 256
I. Porteous, St. Joseph’s Health Care
B. Flaherty, Hamilton Health Sciences
K. O’Connor, Hamilton Health Sciences
W. Doyle, St. Joseph’s Healthcare

1. CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

None.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

(Pasuta/Smithson)
That the Emergency Medical Services Resource & Deployment Advisory Task Force Minutes, dated February 17, 2009 be approved as written.

CARRIED
4. PRESENTATIONS

None.

5. DISCUSSION ITEMS

5.1 Task Force Members review of all recommendations to date.

All recommendations from previous EMS Task Force Meetings were reviewed.

The Task Force inquired how the RN breaks are handled i.e. are they getting breaks, are they covered by hospital staff, are they swiping in and out to start and finish their shift and to track when they are looking after an EMS patient?

Hospital representative advised that a hospital nurse provides break coverage to the offload RN.

Staff advised that currently there is not a system in place that allows the offload RN to swipe the flow of the patient within the ED and their shift start and finish, however, this option can be developed and is under consideration.

(Pasuta/Prieur)
That the EMS Task Force recommendations to date be presented in a report to the Emergency & Community Services Committee and subsequently to Council.

Carried

5.2 Task Force Members discussion of remaining functions.

Task Force inquired whether the Task Force’s mandate was complete with the completion of the offload issue or if there were other issues to be dealt with.

Staff advised that there were three (3) items initially listed: hospital offload circumstances; static, dynamic and hybrid dynamic deployment; and, resources. Staff further advised that at the July 7, 2007 meeting, Council provided direction on the deployment and the resources issues by approving staff Option 2 of Report HES06005(a).

The Chair advised that this item would be discussed further at the next EMS Task Force meeting.

5.3 Next meeting date April 28, 2009 commencing at 1:00 p.m.
6. GENERAL INFORMATION & OTHER BUSINESS

The Task Force requested that a front-line offload RN from St. Joseph’s Hospital and another front-line offload RN from Hamilton Health Sciences be invited to the April 28, 2009 EMS Task Force meeting to provide their perspective on how the offload RN project is working in the emergency departments and what could be done to improve on it.

The hospital representatives will ensure that the two offload RNs attend the April 28 meeting.

7. ADJOURNMENT

(Smithson/Prieur)
There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:25 a.m.

CARRIED

Respectfully Submitted,

Councillor S. Merulla
Chair, EMS Advisory Task Force