



Staff Report to Council - for Information

Title: Community Paramedicine Update

From: Steve Schaus, Director/Chief, Paramedic Services

Date: May 2, 2024

Report Purpose:

This report is for information.

Report Summary:

The report outlines a 2023 year ending update on the Community Paramedicine Program.

Background:

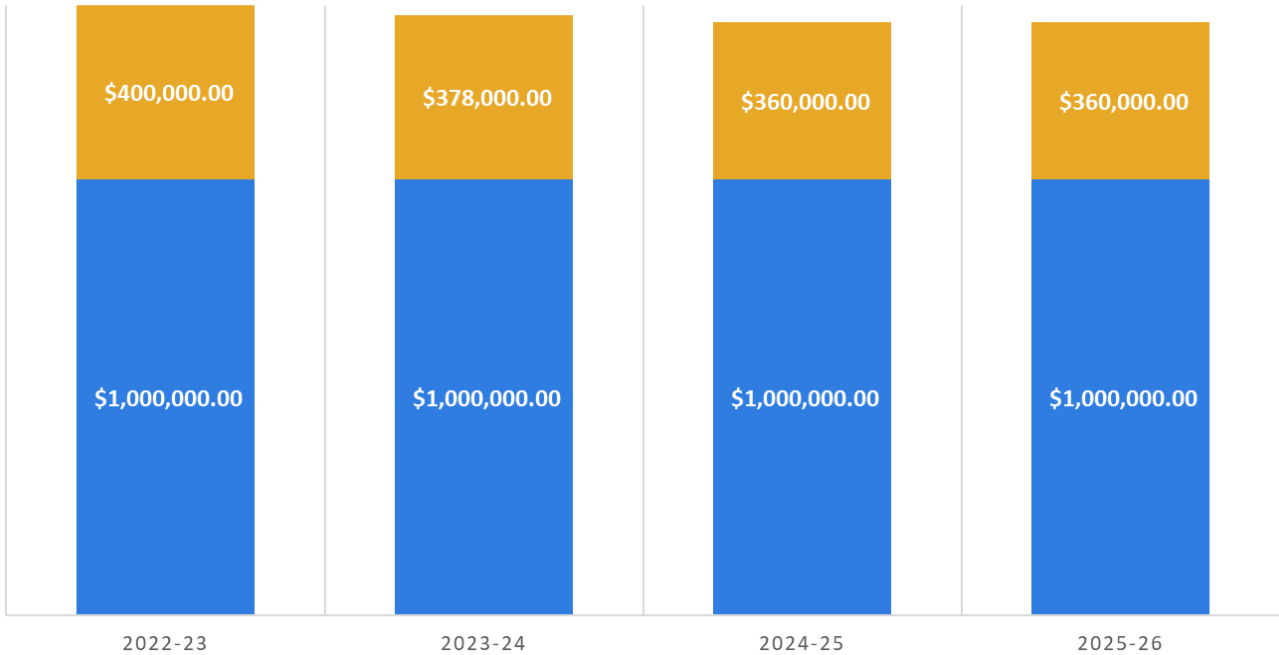
In 2023, the Community Paramedicine Program structure and target populations remained the same as previous years, however the program is seeing greater demand for service locally. While this demonstrates program success, stakeholder confidence, and patient satisfaction; it also translates to a program that is at or very close to nearing capacity with no indication of referrals slowing down. In comparison to other paramedic services provincially, we are seeing more patients with less funding.

The Community Paramedicine Program continues serving the local community through our established five program pillars, Palliative Care, Community Care, CP@ Clinic, 911 Referrals, and Outreach. While also actively looking at gaps in community services where Community Paramedicine could be leveraged to improve access and health outcomes.

We continue to receive our funding from two streams - one from each the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Long-Term Care. The Ministry of Health funding is administered by Ontario Health and accounts for approximately 1/3 of our overall funding. This funding stream is now considered base funding, and we have seen in-year increases to account for inflation and staffing costs. The Ministry of Long-Term Care funding continues to be considered multi-year one-time funding that is guaranteed until the end of fiscal year 2025-26 (March 31, 2026)

YEAR TO YEAR FUNDING

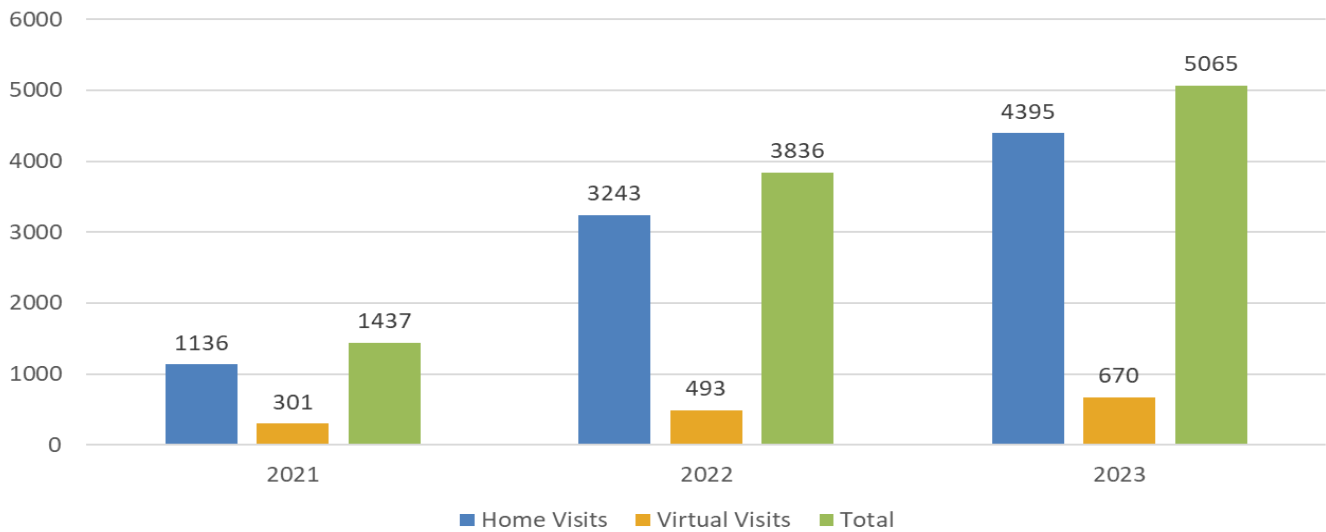
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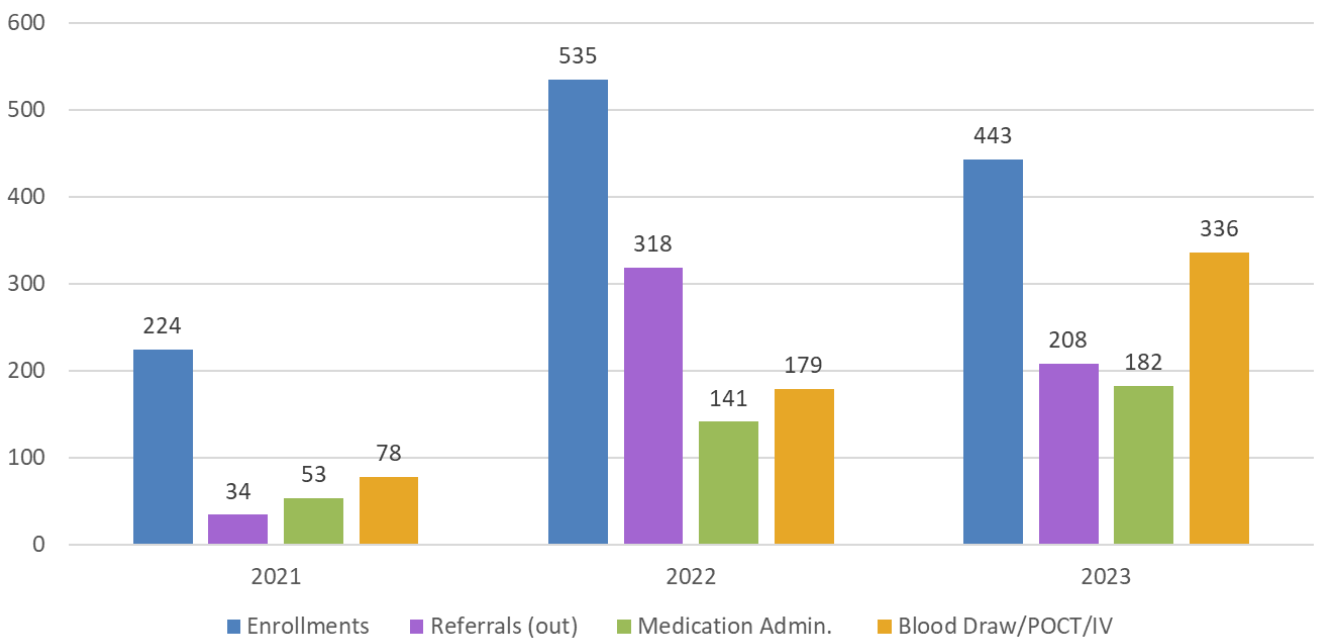
Collaboration has been key to program success over the past year. We continue to cultivate and develop new partnerships with new and existing community partners. From ensuring homebound individuals have access to annual Influenza vaccinations to working through challenging situations in community, the Community Paramedicine team continues to be looked upon and referred to for their adaptability and problem-solving abilities.

During 2023, the Community Paramedicine team has completed 5000+ visits, sent 200+ referrals to Home and Community Care Support Services or Home and Community Support Services Grey Bruce, administered 100+ annual Influenza vaccines to staff and patients, completed 150+ point-of-care blood analysis in home with a further 180+ blood draws in community for homebound residents. All these interventions result in care being provided in the client's home and ensures easy and efficient access to care in the community.

Year to Year Visits Completed



Year to Year Interventions



The Community Paramedicine Program has also been collaborating with Bruce County Human Services to identify and create opportunities to meet residents on their terms, at pre-established community gatherings, to connect vulnerable individuals with community and County services. Currently, there are pop-up sessions happening weekly to monthly in Walkerton, Chesley, and Warton. These pop-up sessions allow individuals to connect with

community services such as Housing, Ontario Works, Public Health, CMHA, the YMCA, or the United Way in an effort to wrap care around those in our communities who may face barriers in accessing services or have difficulty navigating the health or social service systems.

Community Paramedicine has also been an active participant with our local Grey Bruce Ontario Health Team over the past year. This has included responding to calls for proposals, as well as supporting partner proposals that aim to improve health and social services in Grey Bruce.

Currently, the program is actively supporting the implementation of Hypercare across Grey Bruce, an application that provides a secure, PHIPA compliant communication tool to be used across multiple agencies, reducing silos and inefficiencies locally.

Further, Community Paramedicine is working collaboratively with the Southwest Regional Geriatric Program, Grey County, and the Kincardine Family Health Team to build an Interdisciplinary Falls Intervention Team. This is an Ontario Health Team supported project that seeks to build formal pathways for those individuals who have a fall in our community, but choose to not go to Hospital. Intended outcomes are reduced 911 utilization and ensuring individuals have proper care in the community post fall.

We continue to research and learn about emerging practices and technologies that could improve our service delivery model.

We anticipate further collaboration over the coming year, and more opportunities to expand our services. However, this must be balanced with existing limitations - such as funding availability and program capacity.

Financial/Staffing/Legal/IT Considerations:

Program Funding was described in the background of the report. Staff continue to submit proposals for eligible funding for Community Paramedicine as opportunities arise. There are no specific staffing, legal, or IT considerations associated with this report.

Interdepartmental Consultation:

None

Link to Strategic Goals and Objectives:

Community and Partnerships - Enhance and grow partnerships

Link to Departmental Plan Goals and Objectives, if any:

Service Excellence - Community Paramedicine

Report Author:

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Departmental Approval:

Steve Schaus, Director/Chief

Approved for Submission:

Christine MacDonald, Chief Administrative Officer