

Morin, Lois

From: London Police Services Board <lpsb@londonpolice.ca>
Sent: February-20-19 2:10 PM
To: EGGLETON, JILL; Deb Reid; Anita LONGO; Bill CLANCY; fred@governedge.com; 'Jaclyn Kogan'; Krista Ferraro (krista.ferraro@ottawa.ca); Morin, Lois; Mafalda Avellino; Perkins, Lorena; Robert Serpe (robert.serpe@peelpoliceboard.ca); Ryan Teschner; Sharon Baiden; Sevillano, Svetlana; Holly Doty
Subject: Hospital Emergency Room Handover Protocol - LPSB Advocacy
Attachments: Letter to Minister Jones re Hospital Emergency Room Handover Protocol Feb 20 2019.pdf; Letter to Minister Elliott re Hospital Emergency Room Handover Protocol Feb 20 2019.pdf

Good afternoon, Big 12 and OAPSB Colleagues.

Please find attached letters sent by the London Police Services Board to the Minister of Community Safety and Correctional Services and the Minister of Health and Long Term Care regarding hospital emergency room handover protocol. Feel free to use these public documents to support any advocacy your Board or organization wishes to engage in related to this issue which affects so many communities in Ontario.

Thank you.

J

Jennifer Foster

Administrator ~ London Police Services Board
601 Dundas Street, P.O. Box #3415, London, Ontario N6A 4K9
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The Honourable Sylvia Jones, Minister of Community Safety and Correctional Services
Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services
George Drew Building, 18th Floor
25 Grosvenor Street
Toronto, ON M7A 1Y6

February 20, 2019

Dear Minister Jones,

Re: Hospital Emergency Room Handover Protocol

The London Police Services Board (LPSB / Board) has been working with the London Police Service (LPS) and many community partners to address the complex issue of mental health in our community, and specifically, the challenge police often face as first responders being the initial, and sometimes only, point of contact in these situations.

An issue which has come to light during community consultations on this subject is the absence of a province wide police / hospital mental health patient transfer of care protocol, including mechanisms for accountability to the protocol. As the incidence and complexity of mental health challenges escalate in communities across the province, this matter is becoming increasingly urgent.

The essence of the matter is this:

Under Section 17 of the Mental Health Act (MHA), only police have the authority to apprehend an individual for the purpose of compelling examination by a physician in relation to mental health. Police are required to transport to a schedule 1 psychiatric facility for such examination the individual who has been apprehended.

Subsequently, under Section 18 of the MHA an examination of an individual apprehended under Section 17 shall be conducted forthwith by a physician after receiving the individual at the hospital. Section 33 of the MHA mandates that a police officer who takes a person in custody to a psychiatric facility shall remain at the facility and retain custody of the person until the facility takes custody of him or her in the prescribed manner. There is however no definition or description in the MHA of "the prescribed manner". As well, the stigma for

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patients being guarded by police while waiting for hours in hospital waiting rooms is an additional hardship for the patient.

Wait times in London for the transfer of custody of individuals apprehended under Section 17 of the MHA have been a significant issue for many years and continue to escalate as incidents and severity of mental health challenges exasperate in our community.

Average wait time is currently approximately 1 hour and 30 minutes. Average wait times have fluctuated over the past several years from approximately 1 hour and 30 minutes to 2 hours. Specifically in 2017, LPS responded to 2,503 mental health crisis-related occurrences. Apprehension under Section 17 of the MHA was required in 598 of those occurrences and an additional 180 apprehensions were required as a result of Apprehension Orders. In total, there were 778 apprehensions (31% of all mental health related occurrences).

Using an average wait time of 1.5 hours, LPS spent approximately 1167 hours in the LHSC Emergency Department waiting to transfer to the hospital care of individuals apprehended under the MHA. Apprehensions usually require two officers which doubles the wait time impact factor. This statistic is very problematic not only for an already-stretched police service which must be available to respond to a large volume and variety of policing-related issues daily, but also for the many community agencies supporting individuals with mental health issues.

The LPSB has and will continue to work with the London Health Sciences Centre to advocate for the safe, dignified, effective and efficient transfer of care of mental health patients from police to hospital custody. The matter is large and complex and impacts many communities in Ontario. We feel this matter is becoming a community crisis in many regions across Ontario and would benefit from a common sense strategy to be applied consistently across the province.

In 2016, Chief John Pare of the London Police Service was a member of a province wide working group, led by the Provincial Human Services & Justice Co-Ordination Committee that developed a framework protocol for the effective and efficient transfer of care of mental health patients from police custody to hospital custody. This provincial framework protocol was moved forward to the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care (MoHLTC) and Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services (MCSCS) for ministerial approval in late 2016 / early 2017. It is our understanding that this framework protocol has not yet been approved, however the MCSCS and the MoHLTC are both currently reviewing this document.

We strongly urge the Ministers to endorse and implement a province wide police / hospital transfer of care protocol including mechanisms for accountability to the protocol and invite you to contact us if there are ways that we can work together to support a strategy to improve outcomes for all of Ontario.

We look forward to hearing from you in relation to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Sukhera', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Dr. Javeed Sukhera
London Police Services Board
lpsb@police.london.ca
601 Dundas Street, P.O. Box #3415
London, Ontario N6A 4K9
Telephone: (519) 661-5646

CC: Chief John Pare, London Police Service
Superintendent Bill Chantler, London Police Service
Ontario Association of Police Services Boards
Big 12 Police Services Boards



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The Honourable Christine Elliott, Minister of Health and Long Term Care
Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care
Hepburn Block, 10th Floor
80 Grosvenor St.
Toronto, ON M7A 1E9

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