

Strathcona County Emergency Services Medical Services Delivery Model - Pilot

Priorities Committee Meeting
November 13, 2018

Presenters: Associate Commissioner, Gord Johnston
Fire Chief Jeff Hutton
Deputy Chief Devin Capcara
Acting Deputy Chief Tim Moen

The Challenge for our Residents

- Demand for community health/wellness services is outpacing existing resources
- Patients with urgent care needs end up in emergency departments
- Residents have limited care options
- Emergency Rooms are crowded
- Ambulances are tied up
- Residents needs are not met



Strategic Plan Linkage



Goal 1

Build strong communities to support the diverse needs of residents



Goal 5

Foster collaboration through regional, community and governmental partnerships



Goal 8

Foster an environment for safe communities



Photo credit Alberta Code Red Facebook page

Shifting the Model

- Bricks & Mortar → In Place Care
- Protected Scopes of Practice → Competency Based Practice
- Siloes of Care → Collaborative Care
- Narrow Focus → Holistic Focus



Enter Community Paramedics



Photo credit Alberta Health Services website

Community Paramedic Services

Diagnostics available:

- Specimen collection (blood, urine, wound)
- 12/15 lead ECGs
- Vital signs including temperature, blood glucose, SPO2, side-stream CO2, blood pressure
- Facilitate transports for diagnostic imaging

Treatments available:

- CVC & IV rehydration
- Administer medications through IV, SQ, IM, PO, PORT & PICC methods including IV antibiotics
- Extensive medication formulary
- Blood transfusions, urinary catheterization
- Wound closure & care (tissue adhesive, sutures, dressings, staples)
- Oxygen and nebulizer therapy
- Prescription facilitation
- Coordination of community services

Scenario 1 – Seniors Lodge

- Lodge attendant notices Mrs. Jones seems different today
- She doesn't seem ill and isn't injured but isn't acting her normal
- Does she need an ambulance and a trip to the Emergency Department?



Scenario 2 – End of Life Care

- 68-year-old with terminal cancer
- Wants to pass away at home
- His pain becomes more than he can bear and his family calls an ambulance for help
- Should he have to go to the hospital for treatment?



Scenario 3 – COPD Care

- 83-year-old female has Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) and has developed a cough
- She may need antibiotics to reduce the risk of developing a life threatening respiratory infection
- Her mobility is limited
- She calls Health Link
- Should they:
 - Advise her to call an ambulance?
 - Tell her she needs someone to take her to her Doctor?



Scenario 4 – Complex Patient

- 40-year-old alcoholic needs help with his addiction
- Has been in and out of emergency rooms and ambulances 12 times in the past two months
- The only connection he has to healthcare and community is through the ambulance and emergency department
- Eventually he will be identified by the system and referred to social services
- Is there a better way?

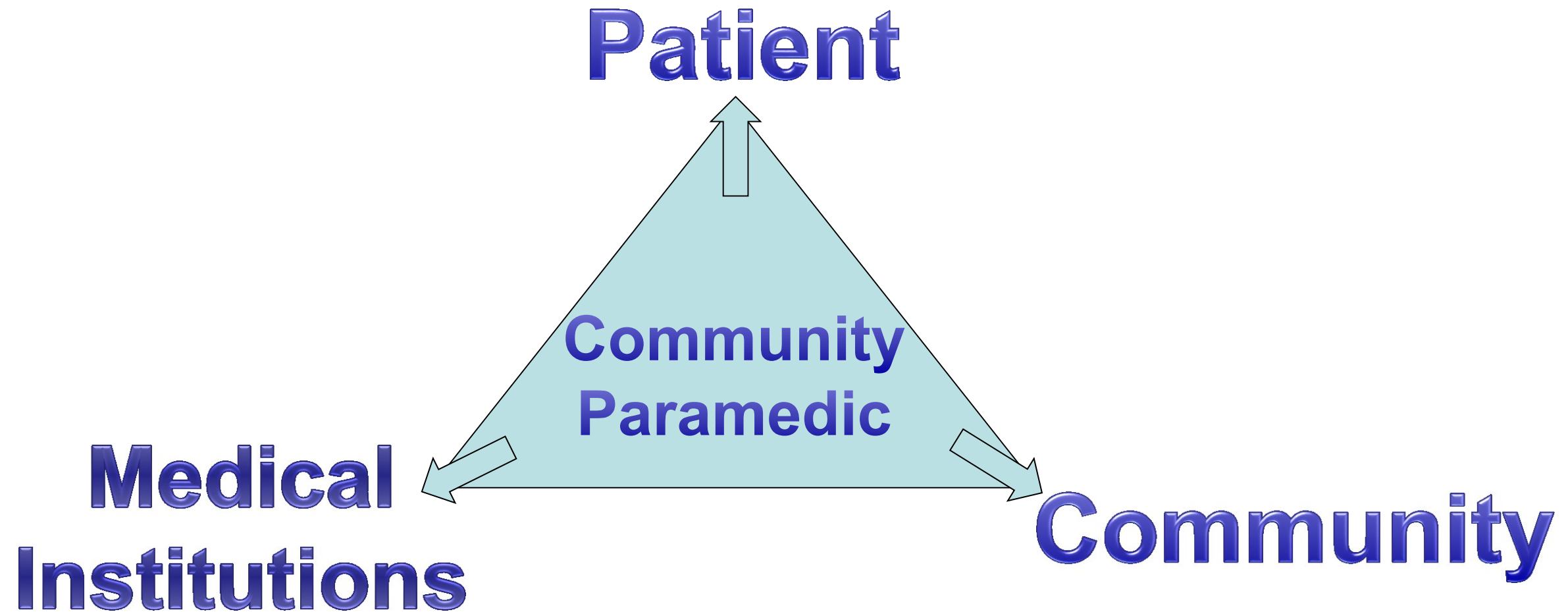


Scenario 5 – Opiate Compliance



- Phil is 28 and has a back injury
- Phil's physician is nervous about prescribing opiates to control the pain
- Should the physician:
 - Risk creating or feeding a cycle of abuse and addiction by prescribing opiates?
 - Risk not properly managing the pain by prescribing something less powerful?

Mobile Integrated Health: The Win-Win-Win



Introducing the Initiative

- Three-year project that includes:
 - department capacity analysis
 - community needs assessment
- A collaborative initiative engaging all the stakeholders including Alberta Health Services, Primary Care Network, Family and Community Services, Heartland Housing Foundation, etc.

Introducing the Initiative con't

- Goal to improve timely access to health and wellness care and connections within Strathcona County through:
 - identifying opportunities to utilize existing resources
 - working with all health and wellness agencies to identify where we can have the biggest impact
- Right care, right place, right time

Next steps

- Continue discussions with Alberta Health Services, Primary Care Network, Family and Community Services, Heartland Housing Foundation, etc.
- Part of 2019-2022 budget and business plan submission

Feedback and Questions

Thank You