



CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ESQUIMALT

MAYOR'S AND COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Report from: Councillor Lynda Hundleby

Subject: Seniors Advocate Report: August, 2018,
From Residential Care to Hospital

Council Agenda: September 17, 2018

Recommendation: That Council receives this report.

Background

This was a discussion on August 30, 2018 of the scientific analysis that led to the report commissioned by the Seniors' Advocate for BC, Isobel Mackenzie. The analysis team was lead by two health researchers - Dr. Kim McGrail, MD and Dr. Jeff Poss, MD.

The professional analysis had to first undergo a privacy impact assessment as well as a UBC ethics review, including validity of hypothesis (whether ownership of a seniors facility matters – private vs public) and assessment of public interest (was there a valid public interest – yes, as funding and quality of care could be impacted).

The report was to determine if sending seniors to Emergency Departments in hospitals occurred more with contracted private facilities or publicly funded facilities. Data over a 4-year period from April 2012 to March 2016 was collected and shared with the Canadian Institute of Health Information* (CIHI), an internationally well-known repository of health data. The information collected a large data set and included 460,000 records of 50,000 persons.

A standard international methodology was used and excluded factors that affected Emergency Room admission rates from facilities. The resulting information was found to be statistically significant and consistent over two similar studies and three methodologies, especially due to the size of the study and the methodologies employed.

*The Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI) collects and analyzes information on health and health care in Canada and makes it publicly available. Canada's federal, provincial and territorial governments created CIHI as a not-for-profit, independent organization dedicated to forging a common approach to Canadian health information. CIHI's goal: to provide timely, accurate and comparable information. CIHI's data and reports inform health policies, support the effective delivery of health services and raise awareness among Canadians of the factors that contribute to good health.
<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/82-221-x/2011002/abc-eng.htm>

There could be many reasons why this occurred. Was it composition of staffing, rural or urban issues, wage levels, licensing, tenure, experience, familiarity with residents, staff turnover, higher rate of falls and fractures? Many things came to mind but further study will need to be carried out to further discern what if anything can be done to improve optimal end of life care and if clinical support and training or greater funds for payment and/or incentivizing would indeed result in better outcomes.

Several people who phoned in with questions were critical of the data and outcomes to date and identified factors that had not been discussed, like the effect of physician interventions and built-in bias. My observation was that many were disclosing their own bias as owner-operators of private facilities. They seemed to feel that blame was being assigned and that criticisms were directed to owner-operators compared to managers of Ministry-funded facilities. I did not sense this, however.

The following were provided:

Report:

<http://www.seniorsadvocatebc.ca/app/uploads/sites/4/2018/08/ResidentialCaretoHospital-report.pdf>

Accompanying Slide Deck:

<http://www.seniorsadvocatebc.ca/app/uploads/sites/4/2018/08/08-30-From-Residential-Care-to-Hospital.pdf>

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor Lynda Hundleby