



Local Health Integration Network

LHINfo Source

Summer 2007

LHIN leads Vaughan hospital services planning

As planning for new hospital services in Vaughan continues to gain momentum, Ron Shenfield says it's the first time one of Ontario's Local Health Integration Networks (LHIN) is playing a lead role in that process.

Shenfield is the Central LHIN's project manager for the Vaughan hospital project. His role is to further the development of the Vaughan hospital by determining what services should be provided at a new facility in Vaughan.

"Usually in these cases the hospital does all of this preliminary planning... this is an opportunity, and the first opportunity in the province really, for the LHIN to be involved in the initial planning for a new hospital," Shenfield says.

In April 2007, Health and Long-Term Care Minister George Smitherman announced the government would support the development of hospital services in Vaughan.

"Planning for new hospital services in Vaughan needs to happen," Smitherman said in a news release. "Vaughan is a growing area and we're responding to the health care needs of the community to improve access to quality health care."

Shenfield says when the LHINs were creating their Integrated Health Service Plan (IHSP) in 2006 there was substantial community consultation surrounding what health services should be provided in the Central LHIN. Using this information as a

backgrounder, Shenfield believes hospital service development in Vaughan will take place in two stages.

"We'll take a look at the service needs of Vaughan and the Central LHIN and identify services to meet those needs. We would then identify the context in which those services will be provided. All of this will relate back to what we heard from the community in the development of the IHSP. We'll take this back to the community and other service providers to get some verification regarding whether we are heading in the right direction," he says.

Following public verification, Shenfield is expecting the final report to be ready to go to the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care in March 2008 but felt it was a bit early in the process to identify a date for the ground breaking at a new site.

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*Caring Communities –
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 Ontario

PARTNERSHIPS HELP FIGHT CHRONIC DISEASE

Forming community partnerships fosters information sharing and treatment of chronic diseases including inflammatory arthritis, osteoporosis and osteoarthritis, says Ieva Fraser, manager of chronic disease and medicine clinics, including The Arthritis Program (TAP), at Newmarket's Southlake Regional Health Centre.

Established in 1991, TAP is an initiative aimed at treating and educating people who have inflammatory joint diseases or any of the more than 135 types of arthritis.

One such partnership, TAP is with the Town of Newmarket's parks, recreation and culture department. Through this partnership – which began about 10 years ago – Southlake's staff runs an exercise program geared towards people who have osteoporosis and those who are at high risk of developing the disease.

TAP and the department will soon be starting a diet-and-exercise program for people who have chronic illness, such as osteoarthritis.

"We're capturing individuals, not in a hospital setting, but out in the community," she says.

The new program will also provide a venue for people diagnosed with osteoarthritis to come and have supervised exercise time under the direction of a fully-qualified health-care provider who will lead the program.

Through its partnership with the Ontario Osteoporosis Strategy, TAP established a fracture-assessment clinic where people who have broken bones are screened. The purpose of the screening is to decrease the number of future fractures.

"If it appears that they might have osteoporosis, either not yet diagnosed or not optimally treated, they fill out a questionnaire when they come for

their fracture clinic appointment, we then give them a phone call and do a further telephone screening and then if it's appropriate, book them into the osteoporosis clinic," explains Fraser.

TAP is also partnered with The Arthritis Society. This partnership allows the society to use Southlake's space, as well as its staff for referrals.

"It's open to either The Arthritis Program staff to refer into this program, or The Arthritis Society to refer into it from the community," says Fraser.

Through TAP's partnerships, says Fraser, chronic disease specialists are able to reach out to a broad range of people and educate them.

"The goal for everyone in chronic disease is to assist an individual in understanding the impact of the disease on the systems of their body, and give them the tools to be able to improve their health status," she says.



Central LHIN finalizes agreement with minister

In its latest step to bring people the best possible health care, the Central Local Health Integration Network (LHIN) is pleased to announce it has signed an accountability agreement with the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care.

Central LHIN CEO Hy Eliasoph characterizes the agreement as a major stepping-stone in helping Central LHIN work toward its goal of "meeting the needs our communities by increasing access to a more integrated health-care system".

"This agreement will help us fulfill our mandate to improve the health system for residents of the Central LHIN," says Eliasoph. "The accountability agreement will be a key to achieving better results and meeting the health-care needs of our communities."

The agreement, which was finalized by all 14 LHINs, provides guidelines and obligations to aid each LHIN and the ministry in achieving the mandate of integrating and funding local health providers.

Agreement with health service providers

In accordance with the proclamation of the Local Health System Integration Act of 2006, the Central Local Health Integration Network (LHIN) is preparing to enter into service accountability agreements with its health service providers.

The Central LHIN will establish new service accountability agreements with hospitals within its borders in 2007 and 2008 while discussions with service providers in other health-care sectors will be phased in over the next few years.

In the coming months, the LHIN will also work with health service providers and the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care to develop processes and policies by which service accountability agreements will be negotiated.

The agreements, as defined in the Local Health System Integration Act, are used to determine the roles, responsibilities and expectations for health service providers, in addition to a performance management framework, reporting requirements and the standards and measures in order to monitor compliance with the agreement.

The LHINs were assigned responsibility and authority for service agreements with health providers April 1, 2007.

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Another aspect of this planning by the Central LHIN for health services in Vaughan is to identify synergies and integration opportunities between hospitals and other service providers in the LHIN to meet the needs and services identified through this planning.

"Because the Central LHIN is involved in the initial planning stages, it's an opportunity for the LHIN to work with the Vaughan Foundation and other

healthcare providers in the Central LHIN to look at not only the needs of Vaughan and the surrounding areas but also the needs of the LHIN," Shenfield says.

"It's (also) an opportunity to look at service gaps within the Central LHIN and hopefully be able to tie those into this new development to try to meet some of those service gaps that the LHIN has identified in its health service plan."

Central LHIN Fast Fact

Percentage Cases Obtaining Services in Toronto, Peel

	Vaughan	York Region
Inpatient Acute Care	56 %	36 %
Day Procedures	76 %	40 %
Emergency	54 %	22 %

The table above compares the proportion of Vaughan cases where services were obtained in Toronto or Peel as compared to the Central LHIN average. Vaughan residents are more likely to travel outside of Central LHIN to access acute care services either in Toronto or Peel. In municipalities where there is a local hospital, the majority of residents will access hospital services at the local hospital. Vaughan, one of the largest municipalities in the Central LHIN does not have a hospital; as a result patient cases are distributed across many hospitals primarily outside the Central LHIN.

Source: Needs Assessment and Vision for the Future, Vaughan Health Care Campus of Care, IBM Consulting, March 4, 2005

Engagement with the Business Community

The Central LHIN's stakeholder engagement strategy is a vital part of our mission, vision and goals. Since the formation of the LHIN's, we have been engaging with various key stakeholders, including providers, seniors, faith groups, cultural groups, and so on.

For the next phase of engagement, the Central LHIN will dialogue with public sector and private industry leaders who make up our business community.

The purpose of these meetings is to seek a diverse spectrum of perspectives on our plan, from the vantage point as business/ industry leaders.

We are keen to seek your input into how best to meet community health needs and to better understand the interests of the business community and local residents. We promise you a most stimulating and thought provoking meeting on a topic which elicits considerable interest and passion.

If you are a business leader who works or lives in the Central LHIN and are interested in scheduling a session, please contact Rochelle Rutman at 905-948-1872 ext. 209 or via e-mail at Rochelle.Rutman@lhins.on.ca

For inquiries about Central LHIN's stakeholder engagement strategy, please contact Sandi Pelly at 905-948-1872 ext. 212 or via e-mail at Sandi.Pelly@lhins.on.ca

Staff Profiles



Kim Baker (Markham)
Senior Director, Planning, Integration
and Community Engagement

We are pleased to welcome Kim Baker to the Central LHIN. Kim brings over fifteen years of healthcare planning and leadership experience to the role from key sectors including hospital, ministry and private sector. In her most recent position, Kim lead a national portfolio for Extendicare's homecare and community support services division, ParaMed, which focused on partnerships, strategy and business development.

Kim has a Masters of Health Sciences in Health Administration from the University of Toronto. Kim is also a trained respiratory therapist.

In her spare time, Kim enjoys spending family time outdoors with her young daughter and husband as well as keeping fit by running, hiking and playing golf.

"There are exciting challenges underway at the LHIN as our health system continues to evolve. I feel privileged to be part of the planning for healthcare service delivery within the LHIN in which I reside."



Ryan Huffman (Thornhill)
Planner

Ryan Huffman will be working with the Planning, Integration and Community Engagement team.

Prior to joining the Central LHIN, Ryan worked in the social marketing field for seven years. In his most recent position, he was the Health Promotion Specialist and Coordinator for the Smoke Free Ontario Act with the Elgin St. Thomas Health Unit.

Ryan has a B.A. in Community Health Science with a minor in social research

from Brock University. He has also completed a wide range of post-graduate marketing courses.

When he is not working, Ryan enjoys cooking, downhill skiing and football. He also has a keen interest in health promotion and linguistics.

"Helping people lead healthier lives is a responsibility I am passionate about. I look forward to the challenge of contributing to the diverse system of health services in the Central LHIN."



Ashif Damji (Stouffville)
Senior Consultant, Performance
& Contract Management

Ashif Damji will be working with the Performance Contract and Allocation team.

Ashif joins the Central LHIN from the Toronto East General Hospital, where he held the position of Manager of Decision Support for the past two years.

Ashif has an Undergraduate Degree in Nursing Sciences as well as an MBA with a focus on Health Services Management.

In his spare time, Ashif often leads team building workshops to various organizations. In addition, he enjoys spending quality time with his family and friends and volunteering with various institutions such as the Aga Khan Social Welfare Board of Canada and the Aga Khan Health Board for Ontario.

"I am excited for this opportunity to participate in enhancing the Ontario health care system."



Ron Shenfield (Toronto)
Project Manager

It is with pleasure that we welcome Ron Shenfield to the Central LHIN. Ron is joining us as Project Manager for the development of Vaughan Health Care Services.

Ron brings an array of planning and development experience with him. Prior to joining the Central LHIN, Ron was most recently working as a consultant for the Salvation Army, for the development of the Harbour Light Centre in downtown Toronto, as a Planning Consultant for the Toronto Grace Hospital and a Planning Consultant with the Good Samaritan Society in Edmonton Alberta.

Ron has an MSc in Policy and Planning with a minor in Business Administration at Columbia University.

"I am excited regarding this specific project as it is a great opportunity to look at the development of a new and innovative way of providing health care to Vaughan and the Central LHIN. It is a great opportunity for the LHIN to be able to take the lead in coordinating this development in a manner that addresses the health care concerns of the Central LHIN and its residents."

Watch for the next issue of LHINfo Source in September. If you have comments or ideas for future issues, please contact Sandi Pelly at **905-948-1872 ext 212** or email sandi.pelly@lhins.on.ca

Remember to check out Central LHIN's Newsroom regularly at www.centrallhin.on.ca for news stories on community engagement and our Integrated Health Service Plan.

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