

CENTRAL WEST LOCAL HEALTH INTEGRATION NETWORK

Bulletin 4 – August 2006

Moving Forward

Local Health Integration Networks (LHINs) are a fundamental part of the government's plan to build a stronger health system in Ontario. LHINs are now responsible for planning and integrating, and will be responsible for funding, local health services in 14 different geographic areas of Ontario.

An Accountability Agreement with the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care requires that each Local Health Integration Network (LHIN) submit its initial Board-approved Integrated Health Service Plan (IHSP) to the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC) by October 31, 2006.

Integrated Health Services Plan

- ✓ The Central West LHIN's initial Integrated Health Services Plan is being built on engaging the public and health service organizations seeking their input on local health service issues and priorities
- ✓ The IHSP will be a high-level, 3-year plan, serving as the foundation for future Central West LHIN activities
- ✓ The initial IHSP will set in motion the next steps for health system improvement in our local network
- ✓ In the initial IHSP, the Central West LHIN will establish its vision, communicate key local health service issues, and identify opportunities to improve access to health services for the residents of the Central West through the coordination and integration of health services
- ✓ The IHSP will address the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care's strategic directions and focus areas.

Community Engagement

Local Health Integration Networks are founded on the principle that local health care is best planned and funded in a coordinated manner locally, because local people best know their own health service needs and priorities.

The Central West LHIN believes its success and credibility in fulfilling its mandate, and in preparing the initial Integrated Health Services Plan, depend on connecting to the public and health service providers.

Recent Activities

The following list of activities illustrate how the Central West LHIN has been working hard to connect with members of the public and with health service organizations to ensure they have the opportunity to inform members of the Board of Directors and senior staff of the Central West LHIN about local health service issues, opportunities and priorities.

- "Meets and Greets" – discussions about health care issues held between local leaders of health care organizations, community groups and associations, municipal representatives, business organizations, local politicians, and Central West LHIN Board members and the Central West LHIN CEO.
- Public Engagement "conversations" – nine sessions held in eight communities in the Central West LHIN in late May and early June to talk to the members of the public about their perception and to gather their input on local health service issues and early priorities for the Central West LHIN.

- Health Service Organization survey – 75 health service organizations, both within the Central West LHIN and known to provide services to the Central West LHIN's residents, were surveyed providing their perceptions of the local health "system's" strengths and challenges, focusing on health services, accessibility, health human resources, opportunities for integration, and early priorities for the LHIN.
- Based on the Integration Priority Report, three client focus areas – mental health and addictions, palliative / end-of-life, and seniors services - were selected for facilitated dialogues with local stakeholders about opportunities to improve access through improved integration.

What We're Hearing

Access and Equity - The overriding issue highlighted by members of the public and health service organizations as the most pressing for the Central West LHIN's attention is access, including equity of access. Based on what we heard, we will work with health service organizations and focus on the following priority client service areas to develop strategic integration opportunities that improve access, and equity of access:

- ❖ Chronic Disease Prevention and Management
- ❖ Maternal / Child Health services
- ❖ Mental Health and Addictions
- ❖ Palliative / End-of-Life
- ❖ Primary Care linkages
- ❖ Rehabilitation
- ❖ Seniors

Community Engagement and Partnership - Participants in our recent activities want to continue to be involved. The Central West LHIN will continue to engage members of the public and health service organizations, building on our initial efforts to do the outreach necessary to hear from the diversity of our communities, increase our visibility in the community, continue to build relationships, and create our identity.

Ministry focus areas

E-health - The Central West LHIN E-health advisory group, reflecting local health service organizations, has been established and, working with the Mississauga Halton LHIN, has begun to prepare the local e-health strategic plan.

Critical Care – Dr. Michael Miletin has been identified as the Critical Care Lead for the Central West LHIN. When implemented, Critical Care Response Teams can improve critical care access, patient safety, and the efficiency of hospital resource utilization.

Wait Times - The Central West LHIN has begun to meet with local hospitals and CCACs and with Ministry Wait Times Strategy staff to examine opportunities to address and improve surgical wait time performance.

French Language Services - The Central West LHIN participated and provided leadership in a consultation session with the GTA francophone community about potential improvements in access to French language health services.

What's Next?

Prior to submitting the initial Integrated Health Services Plan, the Central West LHIN will be talking to the public and health services organizations one more time to make sure the IHSP reflects what you have been telling us. The intention is to expand on the numbers already being heard from, making certain that we connect to our diverse communities, and directly to physicians and other front line staff. The Central West LHIN will also be meeting with stakeholders in the identified client service areas to pursue our discussions about opportunities to work together to improve access to these services through integration initiatives.

For more information on LHINs see www.lhins.on.ca