

CENTRAL WEST LOCAL HEALTH INTEGRATION NETWORK

Bulletin 5 – November 2006

Our initial Integrated Health Services Plan completed

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 LHIN submit a Board-approved Integrated Health Service Plan (IHSP) to the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care.

On October 31, 2006, the Central West LHIN submitted its initial IHSP.

- ✓ The IHSP was built by engaging the public and health service organizations seeking their input on local health service issues and priorities
- ✓ The IHSP is a high-level, 3-year plan and is the foundation for future Central West LHIN activities
- ✓ The IHSP will set in motion the next steps for health system improvement in our local network
- ✓ The IHSP establishes our vision, communicates key local health service issues, highlights our strategic directions, and identifies action plans to improve access to health services for the residents of the Central West through the coordination and integration of health services.

Our Community Engagement

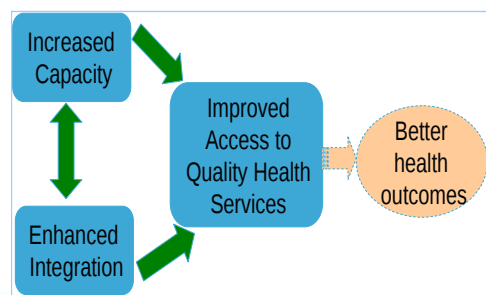
The Central West LHIN was founded on the principle that local health care is best planned and funded in a coordinated way locally, because local people best know their own health service needs and priorities.

The Central West LHIN presents a new and unique opportunity for the public to be a partner in defining issues, establishing priorities, and developing action plans to improve local health services.

Meetings with the public and health service providers, a poll of 602 households, a survey of health service organizations, and the analysis of socio-demographic and health services utilization data, provide the foundation for crafting the initial Integrated Health Services Plan. It reflects the LHIN's unique features.

Our Strategic Directions

The overriding issue highlighted by the public and health service organizations as most pressing for the Central West LHIN's attention is the need to improve access to health services. In many cases, the lack of local access, or the inequity of access, for residents of the LHIN is the symptom of local under-capacity.



Three strategies have been identified that need to be addressed to improve local health services and health outcomes:

- **Enhanced Integration**
Better coordinated and better linked services
- **Increased Capacity**
Adequate level of right kinds of services and supports
- **Improved Access**
Timelier, easier access to high quality, client-centered services

Our Challenge

From the rural areas in the north to the urban centres in the south of the LHIN, Board members and staff heard repeatedly, from both the public and health service providers, about the need to match the provision of health services to the population's growing needs.

Capacity has been a long-standing concern for the communities that now make up the Central West LHIN. Concerns about capacity are reinforced by expenditure data showing that, relative to other parts of the province, the Central West LHIN receives the lowest level of per capita funding for health services.

Our Opportunity

The Central West LHIN has the opportunity to facilitate new relationships and knowledge sharing among health service organizations. The Central West LHIN has begun the process of building the foundation for ongoing engagement, bringing a "system" perspective to planning, managing, and funding of health services, and developing new local Central West LHIN partnerships focused on local priorities.

Our Priorities

In the initial IHSP, the focus will be on eight priorities:

- **Chronic Disease Prevention and Management**
- **Maternal / Child Services**
- **Mental Health and Addiction Services**
- **Palliative / End-of-life Services**
- **Primary Care Linkages**
- **Rehabilitation**
- **Responsiveness to Cultural Diversity**
- **Services to Seniors**

LHINs also play a central role both in interpreting provincial strategies locally, and in communicating local issues and priorities to inform province-wide initiatives.

The LHIN will address several provincial focus areas:

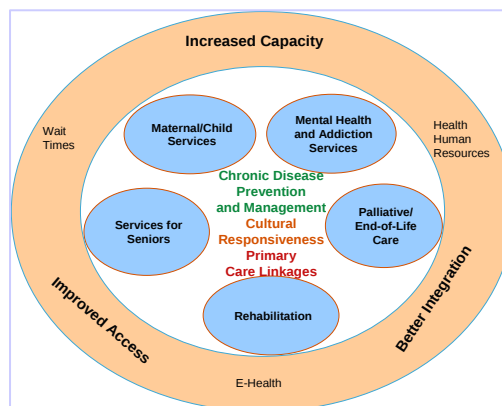
- **Aboriginal Health Services**
- **Critical Care**
- **French Language Health Services**
- **Wait times**

Our Action Plan

The action plan outlines a set of steps to start the process of achieving this goal by focusing health services on the client, by engaging the public and health service providers in identifying and addressing local priorities, by taking action on provincial initiatives, and by taking a system perspective to ensuring the integration of services to better meet the needs of the residents of the Central West LHIN.

In the coming months, the Central West LHIN will work closely with service providers and community members to carry out the action plans for the priority areas.

Illustration of the relationship of the overarching strategies, client priorities, other priorities, and three of the ministry's focus areas.



- **Back office integration**
- **E-health**
- **Health Human Resources**

For more information on Integrated Health Services Plan go to LHINs see www.lhins.on.ca – go to 5. Central West