

April 2006

NORTH SIMCOE MUSKOKA LHIN UPDATE

A SNAPSHOT OF CURRENT ACTIVITIES

Working Together: The Community Engagement Strategy (CES)

What is Community Engagement? Community engagement is the process of working collaboratively with and through groups of people affiliated by geography, common characteristics, special interests, or similar situations to address issues affecting the well being of the community.

Why community engagement? As part of our mandate, LHINs will engage their communities in the process to develop an Integrated Health Service Plan (IHSP). The IHSP will be a local strategic plan that will outline a profile of the local population and their health needs, identify key priorities, strategic goals, action plans and integration initiatives with a 3-year planning horizon. To achieve this goal, the Community Engagement Strategy has been developed to engage our community in open dialogue and consultation to develop local plans and priorities for improved health care.

Who will be involved? The community engagement process is collaborative and respectful of the community within which it takes place. It involves working closely with a community and its members (for example, citizens, and health care providers). We value inclusive, meaningful participation of all citizens in decisions that affect their well-being. If you would like to get involved, please contact us to find out how.

How will it be done? We propose working with Community Engagement Advisory Tables and existing Planning Tables and Networks who will advise us on the best ways to engage the community. Examples of our engagement approaches include focus groups, open houses, workshops and newsletters.

We are committed to working with communities in North Simcoe Muskoka throughout the development of our Integrated Health Service Plan.

Update on Integration Priority Report

Background: In November 2004 a community workshop was held in Orillia. Integration priorities were identified and a report was submitted to the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care in February of 2005. For more information, go to Integration Priority Reports at www.lhins.on.ca/english/main/ResearchReports.asp.

Where we are now: On January 23, 2006, a follow-up meeting was held at the North Simcoe Muskoka LHIN office. LHIN staff and priority planning contacts provided an update on the provincial and local status of each integration priority. These integration priorities will be considered while engaging the community and in the development of the Integrated Health Service Plan.

ON THE GO: COMMUNITY MEMBERS IN ACTION

Simcoe Muskoka East Parry Sound (SMEPS) Palliative Care Network: On March 7th, a Visioning day was held at Geneva Park for palliative care stakeholders in Muskoka East Parry Sound and Simcoe to come together as one Network. Since the MOHLTC announced the Provincial End-of-Life Care Strategy in 2004, representatives from provider organizations from both areas have been working very hard to develop independent structures and processes to improve the access and quality of palliative care. On March 7th, there was a unanimous decision to form one Network to align with the proposed LHIN boundary. Forty-two individuals from across Simcoe County, Muskoka and East Parry Sound spent the day drawing up a common vision and framework to meet the needs of individuals and families in both areas. Initial priorities were identified for the 4 Standing Committees to start working on: Education, Patient & Family, Advocacy and Research/Evaluation.

The Simcoe Muskoka East Parry Sound Palliative Care Network will be official as of April 2006 with a Director in place for day-to-day operations. Agencies and organizations that provide palliative care will have the opportunity to become members and have a forum to raise and resolve current issues. Watch for more news as this exciting organization becomes a reality.

Contact Brenda Smith – 705-735-2224 for more information

Upcoming Events: Don't forget! Showcasing Innovations in Health Care in Ontario, April 19 and 20 Toronto Convention Centre. For more information go to: www.health.gov.on.ca/innovations

GETTING TO KNOW US



Jill Tettmann joins the North Simcoe Muskoka LHIN Team as the Senior Director of Planning, Integration and Community Engagement. Jill brings more than 15 years of experience in major health system planning and community engagement. Her background in planning includes experience with the Simcoe York and Northern Shore District Health Councils. More recently she has been actively involved with the Hospital Annual Planning Submission (HAPS) process at the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care. Jill will play a leadership role in helping all of us achieve the overall goal of improving the health of the citizens of North Simcoe Muskoka.

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