

North Simcoe Muskoka

November 2006

Local Health Integration Network

*Imagine a Better Health Care System...
...and help make it real!*

Announcing the INTEGRATED HEALTH SERVICE PLAN for North Simcoe Muskoka

The North Simcoe Muskoka LHIN Board and staff invite you to attend a presentation on our Integrated Health Service Plan on Monday December 4, 2006 from 4:00-5:00 pm in the Hermitage Room at the Mariposa Inn and Conference Centre, 400 Memorial Avenue, Orillia.

Ruben Rosen, Chair of the NSM LHIN Board of Directors, and Jean

Trimnell, CEO, will share highlights of our Integrated Health Service Plan. This presentation will be followed by an opportunity to meet and speak with LHIN board members and staff. Copies of the Integrated Health Service Plan, and other materials, will be available.

Come learn more about how we plan to work together over the next three years to improve the health of the residents of North Simcoe Muskoka and the delivery of health care services in the region.

The first open board meeting will follow beginning at 5:30 pm.

About the IHSP

Beginning in the spring of 2006, we asked people who live in North Simcoe Muskoka and the health care providers who work here to share their vision for a better health care system. They told us what works best in today's health care system...and what needs to be improved. They also helped identify the most important things to fix immediately, and the action plans to do that.



Based on this input, we have developed a plan to make that vision of a better health care system real. The Ontario government has given the North Simcoe Muskoka Local Health Integration Network the responsibility for local health care planning, coordinating and funding in our region. This Integrated Health Service Plan, which will be implemented within the North Simcoe Muskoka LHIN's available resources, will guide health care decision-making in our region over the next three years.

OUR VISION

A health care system that helps people stay healthy, delivers good care to them when they are sick and will be there for their children and grandchildren.

We appreciate the extensive participation of the health service providers and other members of the community in the planning activities we have undertaken to date. We look forward to their continued involvement, working with us so, together, we can "make it real."

For more information on how you can be involved for the future, or to download the complete IHSP document (posted by Dec 1), please take a look at our website:

www.nsmlhin.on.ca

210 Memorial Ave., Suite 127-130, Orillia, ON, L3V 7V1
Phone: 1.866.903.5446 or 705.326.7750 www.nsmlhin.on.ca

The Plan

North Simcoe Muskoka's Integrated Health Service Plan identifies three strategic directions to improve our health care system, each supported by goals to be implemented between April 2007 and March 2010. In addition, plans are included to better understand the health care needs of francophones, women and the frail elderly prior to identifying specific goals to address their health care needs.

Did you know...

Three per cent of people living in North Simcoe Muskoka have French as their mother tongue.

Health Care Needs of **Francophones**

Three per cent of people in North Simcoe Muskoka have French as their mother tongue. Many of them have difficulty accessing health care services because they are not available in French. **We will** work with our francophone community to identify priority francophone health care needs and develop an inventory of current French-language health care services.

Health Care Needs of **Women**

Women currently represent just over half of the population of North Simcoe Muskoka. Because women tend to live longer than men, the proportion of females to males increases in older age groups. **We will** establish a regional action group in 2008 to address women's health care needs.

Did you know...

Of Ontario's 14 LHINs, North Simcoe Muskoka has the third highest percentage of Aboriginal people.

Health Care Needs of **Frail Elderly**

North Simcoe Muskoka currently has a higher proportion of seniors than the province as a whole. In 10 years time, more than one-third of our population will be over the age of 65—14.8 per cent will be 75 or older. **We will** establish a regional action group to address the needs of frail elderly.

The North Simcoe Muskoka LHIN's plan to create a better health care system was developed with input from many of our stakeholders including the staff and board of health service provider organizations, physicians, consumers and other community members.



Managing
and
preventing
chronic
diseases.

Our Challenge

Today, half of Canadians live with a chronic disease. One-in-five Canadians have three or more chronic diseases.

Our Plan

We will assess current activities and set common goals and objectives for an improved chronic disease management and prevention program. Because of the relatively high rate of diabetes in North Simcoe Muskoka, we will focus first on managing and preventing that disease. In 2008, we will implement the diabetes management and prevention program. That program will be expanded to other chronic diseases beginning in 2009.

Influencing
factors that
affect
people's
health.

Our Challenge

Many factors influence a person's health. These include income and social status, education, employment and working conditions. Social environments and social networks, physical environments, personal health practices and coping skills play a role as do biology and genetics, gender, culture, healthy child development and access to health services.

Our Plan

We will partner in the development of two new community health centres in North Simcoe Muskoka. We will also identify key partners and work with them to address and improve the factors that affect people's health.

Improving
Aboriginal
health status
and services.

Our Challenge

Aboriginal peoples represent 2.7 per cent of the population in North Simcoe Muskoka. Several research studies have found that the health of Aboriginal people across the country is below the national average.

Our Plan

We will establish an Aboriginal health secretariat/planning body to address Aboriginal health priorities. These priorities include mental health and addictions services and the integration of holistic healing practices into mainstream health care services.

Creating a
patient-
friendly
integrated
system.

Our Challenge

Each year, thousands of people in North Simcoe Muskoka go from one health care provider to another. Poor coordination among providers complicates a person's move from one care provider to another. There are also gaps in the service provided for people with mental health and addictions needs.

Our Plan

We will begin addressing this issue by creating an integrated continuum of services for people with addictions and mental health needs. This will then be extended to other clinical service areas.

Reducing
barriers to
accessing
health care.

Our Challenge

Not everyone has equal access to the health care services they need. Typically, those who are disadvantaged are most likely to face systemic barriers to accessing the care they need.

Our Plan

We will host a forum to help identify the most significant barriers to access, and establish processes for reducing them. Beginning in 2008, we will launch an education campaign to raise public awareness of the various visible and invisible barriers to accessing health care to help everyone to understand and reduce them.

Improving
the
continuum
of care.

Our Challenge

Health care services are provided by a range of providers—from hospitals to community-based, in-home services. Evidence suggests that North Simcoe Muskoka does not have the right numbers of each type of provider.

Our Plan

We will help establish an action group to develop processes and structures to provide people with care in the setting that best meets their needs. **We will** identify and implement best practices for residential hospice programs. **We will** enhance the scope of and access to expert teams for palliative care.

Developing
new
approaches to
delivering
clinical
programs.

Our Challenge

Between their limited resources and the growing demand for services, health care organizations must try to do more with the same resources. One way is by implementing regional clinical programs that provide more efficient, safer environments.

Our Plan

We will develop criteria for regional clinical programs. These will include a framework and tools to assess the risks and benefits of these programs. Beginning in 2008, the tested framework and tools will be used to begin developing regional clinical programs, which will be implemented in 2008 and 2009.

Ensuring
we have the
health care
providers
we need.

Our Challenge

Currently, we do not have enough health care providers. What's more, this situation will get worse when many current providers begin to retire. Because of these shortages, doctors, nurses and other health care providers are all serving a large and wide range of patients.

Our Plan

We will develop a comprehensive health human resources strategy for North Simcoe Muskoka. Planning will begin in 2007 with a forum to address North Simcoe Muskoka's health human resource needs, followed by a multi-year action plan for meeting those needs.

Maximizing
the benefits
of eHealth
technologies.

Our Challenge

Health care providers in North Simcoe Muskoka use many different technologies. Not all are compatible, so information cannot always be shared among providers. In addition, their information management capabilities may also differ.

Our Plan

We will continue assessing North Simcoe Muskoka's eHealth readiness, and work to develop an eHealth plan. The plan will be implemented in 2008 and 2009.

Reducing
administrative
and overhead
costs.

Our Challenge

Some duplication occurs in non-clinical services of our health care system, namely administrative and support services. These expenditures could be made more efficient and cost-effective through bulk purchasing power and shared overheads.

Our Plan

We will assess the way non-clinical services are delivered in North Simcoe Muskoka. We will also determine how non-clinical services are best integrated and identify areas where we can do so in our region. In 2007, a pilot project will integrate selected non-clinical services in the region and will be expanded to other areas in 2008.

Did you know...

Over 416,000 people live in North Simcoe Muskoka. Barrie, the largest city in the region, has grown by two-thirds during the last decade.

Investing in
health care
buildings and
equipment.

Our Challenge

LHINs will not be primarily responsible for approving funds for health care buildings and equipment. However, they will have a role in coordinating and supporting requests for investments to sustain the future delivery of health care services.

Our Plan

We will work with the appropriate groups and ministries to develop a 10-year, capital infrastructure strategy for North Simcoe Muskoka. Our initial activities will include developing an inventory of the state of existing health care buildings and equipment within the region, and identifying needs for new equipment and construction.

Did you know...

In Muskoka the population increases by as much as a half during the summer months.