
NORTH EAST LHIN E-BULLETIN, ISSUE 4, APRIL 18, 2007

***** COLLABORATIVE E-HEALTH PROJECT MOVES ON TO PHASE 3 *****

In 2005, a group of health service providers from across Northern Ontario undertook the development of an Information and Communication Technology Blueprint (ICT). The goal was to strategically position Northern Ontario health care providers within the province's broader e-health vision and strategy.

The ICT was initiated under the leadership of the three Northern Ontario District Health Councils and continues today as a collaborative project between the North East LHIN, North West LHIN, ONe-Health, Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care and FedNor. To date, 52 organizations from across Northern Ontario have participated in ICT, including: hospitals, community care access centres, mental health centres, regional cancer centres, and community health centres.

With the success and completion of Phase 2, Northern Ontario's health service providers have developed the most comprehensive eHealth Information and Communication Technology Blueprint for the community health sector in Ontario! The North East and North West LHINs, together with the health services providers in the North are now in a position to share their knowledge and use the findings of this work to move the health care system forward.

Overview of ICT

Phase 1:

Completed in 2005, the objectives of phase 1 were to:

- Conduct an inventory of the current state of ICT in Northern Ontario hospitals, CCACs, regional in-patient mental health programs, regional cancer centres, and current regional ICT initiatives.
- Identify opportunities to partner and strengthen ICT linkages between health care providers and sectors.
- Develop a common vision and strategic blueprint for action for ICT in Northern Ontario.

Phase 2:

Completed in March 2007, phase 2 aligned mental health, addictions, long-term care, primary/specialist medical care, public health, children's rehabilitation, private laboratory diagnostic sectors, pharmacies/ODB, community support services and patient self-management with the province's e-health vision and strategy. Specific objectives were to:

- Undertake an assessment of the status of: individual agency patient records; clinical departmental and business information systems; and agency ICT infrastructure.

- Develop a shared vision and strategic direction for ICT in Northern Ontario.
- Identify barriers to, and opportunities for, partnerships, linkages, and a Northern Ontario approach to ICT.
- Formulate specific and practical implementation strategies, and options for overall system-wide ICT coordination/governance.

Phase 3:

Currently underway, and scheduled for completion this summer, the objectives of phase 3 are to:

- Develop short/medium/long-term ICT priorities for Northern Ontario.
- Identify resource requirements and technological solutions
- Develop LHIN-wide ICT standards, requirements for interoperability, best practices, and system integration approaches.

How can you support the project?

- Copy and/or circulate the regular project bulletins and visit the ONeHealth website at <http://one-health.ca/portal/ICTPhaseII/tabid/56/Default.aspx>.
- Participate in a focus group(s) between April 23 and May 10 (more information available on website above).
- Ensure that your organization responds to information requests (e.g. surveys, site visits) and participates in any planned consultation sessions.

***** IN BRIEF *****

- ***Please join us in welcoming Carol Philbin Jolette as Performance, Contract and Allocation Consultant.*** Carol is currently employed with the North East CCAC and will bring 5.5 years of Senior Management experience in the public health care system. Carol will also bring with her extensive knowledge in health care service delivery, health care requests for proposals, contract management, consultation & relationship management with multiple stakeholders and service providers across the North East. Carol will be joining the NE LHIN team on April 16th, 2007.
- The development of the preliminary program for the ***ALC Summit in Sudbury, June 6-7*** is nearing completion. Please mark your calendars for this focused two-day work shop that will provide you with the opportunity to learn more about the latest developments on ALC issues in Northeastern Ontario and contribute to the ALC Action Plan under development by the NE LHIN. For further information, contact Frank McGoey at 705-840-2872, ext. 207 or frank.mcgoey@lhins.on.ca.

- The NE LHIN will be holding a ***Governance Forum on June 15-16*** for Health Service Providers (HSP) in the North East. This forum will provide an opportunity for HSP Board Chairs and NE LHIN Board members to meet and discuss the following items:
 - MOHLTC new stewardship role
 - NE LHIN role and mandate in the new transformed system
 - Health Service Provider roles and accountabilityFor further information, contact Monique Rocheleau at 705-840-2872, ext. 218 or monique.rocheleau@lhins.on.ca.
- The next open meeting of the Board of Directors will be a teleconference on Friday, April 27 from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm. Dial-in number for the public: 1-866-696-6910; passcode: 3218471#. Please confirm your participation with Lianne Bettiol at 705-840-2872, ext. 213 or lianne.bettiol@lhins.on.ca.
- The NE LHIN website at www.nelhin.on.ca also provides extensive access to information.
- NE LHIN also encourages questions and feedback through northeast@lhins.on.ca