



WWLHINformation

BULLETIN ONE
April 2008

Moving Forward With Transformation

About a year ago, the Waterloo Wellington Local Health Integration Network (WWLHIN), and all Local Health Integration Networks across the province, assumed full responsibility for planning, coordinating, integrating and funding local health services. Bringing decision-making to a local level ensures that the distinct health care priorities of our community can be addressed.

The WWLHIN's scope of responsibility includes eight hospitals, the Waterloo Wellington Community Care Access Centre, 35 long-term care homes, 26 community support services organizations, 19 mental health and addictions agencies and four community health centres.

After much community consultation, we heard you tell us there are four health care priorities – improving access to services and reducing wait times, promoting healthy lifestyles and preventing illness, having a system that is effective and invests our dollars efficiently, and planning a system now that will meet our needs in the future.*

Throughout the past months, we brought our local health care providers together to talk about system-wide planning; how a decision made by one organization can affect others. It is a clear message about transformation - we need to plan for the system, not just organization by organization.

The WWLHIN's strategy was to review the annual operating plans from all its health service providers at the same time. That way we could make system-wide decisions after identifying gaps, spotting opportunities, seeing where services overlap, encouraging partnerships and new ways of providing services.

Recently, the WWLHIN Board of Directors approved the funding targets for 100% of our service providers in five of our six sectors (exclusive of the hospital sector). The funding targets for the five sectors represent an investment of approximately \$275 million.

Hospital sector agreements are being negotiated and when they are finalized information will be available on our website. Hospital funding represents approximately \$534.5 million annually.

What do we get for our investment? The high-quality services currently provided by our community support services agencies, mental health and addictions agencies, Waterloo Wellington Community Care Access Centre, long-term care homes and community health centres will continue.

We have introduced a position for a 'lead' for the overall community support services' programs who will look at improving the coordination of similar and complementary services and who will develop management tools with the goal to increasing efficiency WWLHIN wide.

You will see new services such as:

- in-home primary care prevention and monitoring of seniors at risk
- access to care and housing for homeless and those at risk of homelessness
- expanded adult day services
- focused support for vulnerable individuals following being discharged from hospital
- coordinated support to seniors in some of our rural areas to provide a link to services such as transportation, preventative care and friendly visits

As well, long-term care will be enhanced including new over-bed and transition bed capacity and enhanced discharge planning to help alleviate pressure on hospitals.

A new hospice will be created for palliative care support.

For individuals with addictions, there will be a new women's addiction/substance mis-use day treatment program as well as continued support for the newly created residential youth addiction treatment program.

These are just a few of the positive changes you will see in the upcoming year. We continue to listen and work with the community and the health service providers as we move forward with transforming our health care system.



Sandra J. Hanmer
Sandra Hanmer
Chief Executive Officer

*For more information about community priorities, contact the office for a copy of the Integrated Health Service Plan (IHSP) or view it on our website www.wwlhin.on.ca

More information about the operating plan approvals or hospital agreements can be found on the website www.wwlhin.on.ca

You Are Invited

The Board of Directors of the WWLHIN invites you to attend its meetings. Generally held on the last Thursday of the month the meetings often begin with a special guest speaking on a particular topic. The meetings include reports from the board committees – governance and finance and audit as well as reports from the Chair and the CEO.

Upcoming meetings

April 24

Guest Speaker
Dr. Alan Hudson
*Lead – Access to Services
and Wait Time Strategy*
Cutten Club 6 pm

May 22

Marden Community Centre
Marden 7 pm

June 26

Centre for the Arts
Cambridge 7 pm

For more information about board meetings please visit the website at www.wwlhin.on.ca

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