

Caring Communities – Healthier People: Making a Difference

Health Check-In

September 2008

Planning to meet our needs

Central LHIN is working on developing its Annual Service Plan. The plan is a public document that allows our community, health service providers and the government to understand how we are going about addressing the healthcare needs of our residents. Once complete, the plan will be available on our website at www.centrallhin.on.ca.

New Hospice Planned for York Region

The Central LHIN Hospice Palliative Care Network, in partnership with the Central Community Care Access Centre and Southlake Regional Health Centre is developing an operational plan for a 10-bed hospice for York Region. Community engagement will be undertaken once site options have been confirmed. It is anticipated the hospice will be opened by 2010.

Listening to Seniors and Caregivers

To encourage participation from those who are best able to share their wisdom into the needs of seniors and caregivers, we set out to recruit community members from this group to share their experiences and knowledge.

The panel's work will:

- Provide input and feedback on the effectiveness of our strategies and initiatives related to seniors and their caregivers
- Provide input and feedback on issues such as co-ordination, access and efficiency within the health-care system for seniors
- Share with us the local health issues or needs that may arise in our community

We are working to have the group together for their first meeting in October.

For additional information about these items or other Central LHIN initiatives, please contact Mario Longo at (905) 948-1872 ext. 214 or by e-mail at Mario.Longo@lhins.on.ca.

Assembling Community Leaders

New partnerships are being established with community leaders to reach culturally diverse groups across the LHIN. An orientation session held earlier this summer included groups from: Jane-Finch, rural areas in the northwest part of our LHIN, South Asians, Italian, Korean, Filipino, Jewish, Chinese, Iranian, Russian and Francophones.

A GEM of a plan – Aging at Home

In an effort to help seniors access the care that they need to age at home with dignity and avoid recurring visits to the emergency room or unnecessary hospital visits, the Geriatric Emergency Management (GEM) initiative is being expanded to every emergency department in Central LHIN.

As part of the Aging at Home Strategy, we are providing more than \$500, 000 to create new GEM positions in the emergency departments at Humber River Regional Hospital, North York General Hospital, Markham Stouffville Hospital, Southlake Regional Health Centre and Stevenson Memorial Hospital.

Planning for Tomorrow

We are working on a new initiative that will help us better understand and plan to meet the health needs of our community. Ten years from now, what will our healthcare system look like? Do we know what healthcare services will be needed? What will be the demographic makeup of our LHIN in 2018? We will answer these questions with the help of healthcare experts, consultants and our community.