

Governance News

September 30, 2009

Interim Board Chair, Peter Vaudry chaired the September 25 NE LHIN Board of Directors meeting held at the Lady Minto Hospital in Cochrane. The following is a summary of major items discussed.

Note: *MOHLTC = Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care*
NE LHIN = North East Local Health Integration Network

Sudbury Regional Hospital – Memorial Site

On September 18th, an announcement was made whereby the MOHLTC confirmed its support of the NE LHIN's bed strategy that includes using the Memorial Site of Sudbury Regional Hospital (HRSRH) to address the current long-term care bed shortage in Sudbury. This solution will see the Memorial site used temporarily to care for ALC patients for a period of up to 12 months pending the hospitals transition to one site in early 2010. Final details related to the Memorial site are being worked on by local partners and MOHLTC.

Nipissing Partnership

The Nipissing Partnership, which includes: North Bay General Hospital, Cassellholme/Castle Arms, West Nipissing General Hospital, Mattawa General Hospital and the Northeast Mental Health Centre was granted funding under the NE LHIN integration initiative envelope to further their integration initiatives that will focus on addressing current and pending challenges.

Sault Area Hospital

The NE LHIN received the SAH Improvement Plan and their final HAPS indicated that the hospital will not be balanced by 2012 unless the MOHLTC or the NE LHIN provides additional funding. The NE LHIN has begun discussions with the MOHLTC to explore options to assist the SAH in reaching a balanced budget by 2012.

Rattlesnake Antivenom Management and Distribution

The MOHLTC, West Parry Sound Health Centre (WPSHC) and NE LHIN have been working collaboratively towards a sustainable solution for the funding, management and distribution of Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake anti-venom stock. WPSHC has submitted an annual budget of approx \$346,000 which would allow them to fully operate a provincial rattlesnake anti-venom depot. Discussions have been completed and the MOHLTC is considering the feasibility of funding the depot operations on an ongoing basis.

Great Northern Nursing Centre

An extension to the Cease to Admit order has been granted until September 25, 2009. The contract between the parties has been drafted and legal council for each is currently finalizing the wording.

St. Joseph's Continuing Care Centre of Sudbury

St. Joseph's Health Centre continues to work with HRSRH to finalize the administrative transfer agreement between the two organizations. The Centre admitted the next 16 patients during the week of August 24th, 2009. This still leaves 16 beds to be filled. Work continues on identifying the final 16 patients. NE LHIN staff are in discussion with St. Joseph's regarding the remaining 16 beds and when these beds will be open.

Community Lab Services – Pilot Review

The MOHLTC recently completed a review of 12 laboratory pilot projects across the province. The NE LHIN has two pilot projects; West Parry Sound Health Centre (WPSHC) and Temiskaming Hospital. MOHLTC has requested that the LHINs partner with the hospital to engage in the transitional planning process as follow-up to the recommendations resulting from the MOHLTC review. The MOHLTC has requested that the Temiskaming Hospital process begin first, and then WPSHC will follow.

The MOHLTC has provided one-time funding to the hospital to support this work. NE LHIN staff have developed a request for services (RFS) and this has been sent to the CEO of Temiskaming hospital to review and take the next steps to get a consultant in place to support the project.

Integrated Health Services Plan

Final planning details are being completed for the October 5th **Governance/Stakeholder Forum** to confirm the priorities for the IHSP. Registration is plus 125 delegates to date. A **Dialogue with Aboriginal, First Nations and Métis** people is being planned for October 20 in Sudbury and October 22 in Timmins.

Aging at Home Approvals

No update since last Board meeting -- *38 approval letters have been issued for the Year 2 projects acknowledged by the MOHLTC. These used an assumed start date of June 1, 2009 but HSPs could request a full year funding if they had early start-up. 25 sign backs have been received to date. Some approval letters will be amended to reflect changes to the fiscal funding amount and other minor revisions to the fiscal performance requirements.*

Surgical Optimization Study – Implementation Plan

Sub-committee met on August 25th to scope out a critical path for the implementation of the recommendations. Follow-up meeting is scheduled for October 7 with the sub-committee to identify implementation priorities.

ER/ALC Stocktake Report

The last ER/ALC Stocktake Report was presented and is included in the Board meeting package. The report is prepared quarterly and was used as the basis for discussion with the Assistant Deputy Minister on September 3, 2009 to discuss ALC status and issues within the NE LHIN.

eHealth Update:

The NE LHIN has applied for the four streams of activity planned for this fiscal year in support of the provincial eHealth Strategy, and they are:

- Integration Services with a goal to focus on integrating systems across Ontario's healthcare sector in a standardized, systematic and efficient manner.
- ALC Resource Matching and Referral which is focused on creating a set of provincial guidelines and standards that will enable LHINs to implement local or regional RM&R solutions to better facilitate patient referrals from acute to defined post-acute facilities.
- Physician eHealth plans to build awareness, demonstrate value, and promote physician participation and collaboration among health care providers.
- Implementation and Adoption will enable the LHINs to achieve readiness in the areas of governance, PMO, communication and stakeholder engagement, change management, and support structures for implementing and adopting provincial eHealth solutions.

Communications

Between August 1 and September 20, 5,981 people visited the NE LHIN website, compared to 4,083 one year prior. The Fall newsletter is currently underway and will focus primarily on integration successes. Five ebulletins to health service providers were sent via email. Activity surrounding news of the use of Sudbury Regional Hospital's Memorial Site to care for ALC patients was the main focus of media attention during this time period.

Wikwemikong Nursing Home

Effective August 24, 2009 the CCAC began accepting admissions to the Nursing Home again. This will follow a graduated process as the home continues to work on the compliance issues identified. Communications have been made to the Chief regarding a meeting with the Chief and Council.

Burk's Falls and District Health Centre

No update since last Board meeting -- *Muskoka Algonquin Healthcare conducted a series of community engagement activities in June and North Simcoe LHIN is awaiting a summary report on these engagements. These are to be posted on their website upon receipt. Burk's Falls District Health Centre has closed its urgent care service however the physicians continue to have regular office hours for the delivery of primary care. Patients who require emergency services are transported directly to Huntsville via ambulance. The seven beds remain open and are filled with ALC patients. An external review of the operations of the MAH will be undertaken and the NSM LHIN is hoping to have a final decision on the improvement plan by the end of the calendar year. Total projected deficit at MAH is \$4.1M for this fiscal year.* The NE LHIN continues to be in regular contact with NSM LHIN.

2009-2010 NE LHIN Operating Plan

The priority areas for the NE LHIN 2009-2010 Operating Plan were presented. The program areas and accompanying supporting initiatives will be the main area of focus of NE LHIN staff up until April 1, 2010. Program areas include: ER/ALC; Wait Times, Chronic Disease Prevention Management; Accountability; Integration; Aboriginal/First Nation/Métis/ French Language Health Services; health and NE LHIN Operations.

French Language Services (FLS)

The September 22 **Forum for Francophones** was deemed a success with more than 50 people attending and excellent feedback received on the draft IHSP priorities.

A draft NE LHIN FLS policy has been prepared. The NE LHIN will now engage the Francophone community to review the draft and provide further input.

The Senior French Language Health Services Advisor position will be posted based on further information received from the MOHLTC regarding existing FLHS resources at the MOHLTC.

Aboriginal/First Nation/Métis Services

Two dates have been confirmed for a dialogue with Aboriginal/First Nation and Métis people regarding the IHSP – October 20, Sudbury and October 22, Timmins.

The advertisement for the Senior Aboriginal, First Nation and Métis Advisor position was posted recently and has been circulated to specific groups across Ontario. The recruitment of a Aboriginal, First Nation, Métis Consultant is complete and discussions on hiring an individual are underway.

Health Professional Advisory Committee (HPAC)

This standing committee of the NE LHIN Board of Directors met on September 11. Irene Lees agreed to be chairperson for the upcoming year. The Committee is currently looking to secure an additional three members.

NE LHIN Second Quarter Report

The NE LHIN's second quarter report for 2009/2010 was reviewed. The report is submitted to the MOHLTC on a quarterly basis as per the reporting requirements outlined in the Ministry-LHIN Accountability Agreement. The report reviews the progress made on each of the NE LHIN's priorities.

Next Meeting

Teleconference, October 30, 2009.

A copy of the full board package can be downloaded from www.nelhin.on.ca. Minutes of the September 25 meeting will be brought forward for Board approval at its next meeting.

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