

Governance News

February 5, 2010

This newsletter provides you with highlights of the discussions held at the January 29, 2010 NE LHIN Board of Directors meeting (held via teleconference and videoconference).

Readers are also advised to read a message from the NE LHIN Interim Chair, Peter Vaudry on the NE LHIN Board of Directors **efforts to engage governance colleagues in discussions on moving towards a more patient-focused and integrated health care system**

[» Read message](#)

Acute Care Sector Updates

1. Sudbury Regional Hospital – Memorial Site

Programs and services of the Memorial Site were transferred to the Laurentian Site on January 30, 2010. The Memorial Site will open 136 transitional beds on February 15th.

- NE LHIN senior staff continue to meet with local providers in Sudbury to monitor the transition of the Pioneer Manor residents, residing at Sudbury Regional Hospital, back to Pioneer Manor.
- The next meeting of the Sudbury ALC Steering Group is scheduled for February 10th; work will continue on the ten-point plan that is part of the ALC solution in Sudbury.

2. St. Joseph's Continuing Care Centre (SJCCC)

SJCCC opened its new 64 bed hospital on June 1, 2009. A total of 32 beds were opened on June 1st with another 16 beds opening in October 2009. SJCCC agreed to open the final 16 beds in November 2009 to assist with the ALC pressure in Sudbury. SJCCC intends to close the 16 beds and transfer the patients to the Memorial site on March 31, 2010 if their full budget is not realized by that time.

- NE LHIN senior staff continue to meet with the hospital to discuss solutions to their budget while the hospital awaits its post construction operating budget from MOHLTC.
- During the January 29, 2010 Board meeting, the NE LHIN approved the 2009/10 SJCCC hospital service accountability agreement.

3. Sault Area Hospital (SAH)

(Note: status unchanged since December 2009 meeting)

Following a close analysis of the SAH Hospital Improvement Plan (HIP), between May and September 2009, the NE LHIN concluded that it was not able to accept the HIP as per the 2006 legislation, and that it would forego the appointment of a third party review in order to work with the MOHLTC to review the options and next steps with regards to the SAH budgetary situation.

- SAH continues to provide monitoring reports to the NE LHIN on its HIP.

4. Burks Falls and District Health Centre

The Final Operational Audit Report on Muskoka Algonquin Healthcare (MAHC) has been received and accepted by the MAHC Board of Directors.

- The Plan has been submitted to the North Simcoe Muskoka (NSM) LHIN. The NSM LHIN will review the Plan on March 22, 2010.
- The NSM LHIN has provided NE LHIN with a copy of the plan for review.

5. Inaugural Meeting of Emergency Department Network

The first meeting of the NE LHIN Emergency Department Network (EDN) took place on January 26th.

- The purpose of the EDN is to act as a coordinating and oversight mechanism for planning and program implementation activities related to emergency services and systems in North East Ontario.
- The EDN is being led by the NE LHIN ED Lead, Dr. Chris Bourdon with support from NE LHIN staff.

Long-Term Care Sector Updates

1. Accountability Agreements (LSAA)

As the LSAA is being developed within the context of the Long-Term Care Homes Act (LTCHA), there is a need to align the proclamation of the LTCHA and the start date of the LSAA. The Ministry intends to recommend a change to the regulations under LSHIA that require the LHINs to have a signed LSAA in place by March 31, 2010.

2. Wikwemikong Nursing Home

On January 16, 2010, the Ministry directed the NE CCAC to continue to cease admissions to the Nursing Home for an additional period of 30 days.

- NE LHIN Aboriginal Staff attended the Board of Director's meeting as a formal introduction; Band Council Resolutions have been made to appoint the board members along with the tasks necessary to gain compliance with Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care. The members have two band councilors that relay communication back to the elected leadership.
- A summary of the compliance review tasks were compiled with a Remedial Plan of Action/Target dates/Outcomes/ Responsibility. All parties are actively working on meeting the Regulations

Aboriginal/First Nation/Métis File Update

Weeneebayko Area Health Authority (WAHA)

The Operations group met on January 18, 2010. A progress report and list of outstanding items was reviewed by the Project Manager. Meetings were scheduled at the end of January to develop transitional plans and an operating budget.

- The Grand Chief convened a meeting in Timmins on January 21, 2010, with the Mushkegowuk Tribal Council and Signatories (and NE LHIN) to establish communication linkages along with implementation plans updates of WAHIFA. Direction of Governance and Operations group will await direction from a consultant.
- The Chair of the NE LHIN and representatives of the Board of Directors of James Bay General Hospital, Weeneebayko Health Ahtuskaywin, and Weeneebayko Area Health Authority met on January 23, 2010 to discuss the integration and Board of Directors' plans and tasks necessary to move forward. Grand Chief of Mushkegowuk addressed the group on direction taken by Board of Chiefs and Signatories to invite and participate with a consultant who will assist in moving forward the integration process.

Francophone File – Update

On January 15th, the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care announced the creation of at least five new French language planning entities across the province. The entities will be created through a new regulation under the Local Health System Integration Act. The entities will be selected by the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care and will work with the province's 14 LHINs to ensure that the needs of Francophone communities are reflected in local health planning. The advice and input the planning entities will provide to LHINs includes: methods of engaging the local Francophone community; health needs and priorities of the local Francophone community; identifying Francophone health services and health care providers currently available to the community, and improving access to, and the integration of, French language health services in the area.

- Selection of the planning entities will be completed by July 1, 2010.

Aging at Home – Year 2 Approvals and Year 3 Submission

Wrap Around program details have been submitted to the MOHLTC for their review. The funding mechanics are being changed for 09/10 to flow the Wrap Around funds primarily to the CCAC with the participating hospitals receiving a more limited component. Final details are being worked out.

- The NE LHIN released guidelines for Year 3 submissions on November 13, 2009 that focus on supportive housing. LHINs have received an extension of the submission date for Year 3 detailed service plans to the MOHLTC until the end of February. Proposals will now be due at the NE LHIN by February 5, 2010.

ER/ALC Stocktake Report

The next ER/ALC Stocktake Report will be released in early February with the meeting with the Assistant Deputy Minister occurring in early March. The Stocktake Report details a set of standard indicators from each LHIN to the MOHLTC on ER visits and ALC rates within the respective LHIN.

Communications

Between December 14, 2009 and January 25, 2010, 5,760 visits were made to the NE LHIN website (not including staff). Four e-bulletins to health service providers were sent via e-mail. Communications activity over the past month centered mainly around: development of the second NE LHIN Strategic Communications Plan (2010-2013).

eHealth Update

The NE LHIN eHealth staff continue to move forward with the eHealth Ontario funding project streams. The NE LHIN has received a funding letter for the ALC Resource Matching & Referral project, and are awaiting funding letters for the ePhysician, Implementation & Adoption and Integration Strategy. As well the eHealth program/staff are moving forward with review of approaches to governance for eHealth in the NE LHIN.

Acquired Brain Injury Services

The NE LHN received \$715,000 in base funding to improve ABI services. \$315,000 will be used to coordinate local ABI services as well as improve outreach and day services to communities and rural areas that are lacking these services.

- \$400,000 will be used to operate the new regional ABI supportive housing project in the city of Sudbury. Ontario March of Dimes has developed a plan to implement these new services.

Health Equity Impact Assessment (HEIA)

The MOHLTC has identified equity as a key priority within the Ministry and the broader health system. MOHLTC is currently developing a tool that will support improved health equity, including the reduction of avoidable health disparities across population groups.

- The MOHLTC undertook consultations and pilots on the draft tool in the Toronto Central LHIN in 2009 and requested expression of interests to undertake a similar process in other LHINs.
- The NE LHIN responded and was approved to conduct a regional consultation and pilot the HEIA tool in a minimum of three agencies. The MOHLTC will provide up to \$14.5K to cover consultation expenses.
- The consultation is tentatively scheduled for February 23, 2010 in Sudbury. The results of the consultation and pilots need to be completed by the end of March 2010.

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About this Communiqué

This communiqué follows each monthly Board of Directors meeting as a means of keeping interested governance colleagues, health service providers, volunteers and citizens apprised of the work and decisions taken by the North East LHIN Board of Directors.

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