

NSM LHIN LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

Care Connections – Working Towards our Spring Forum!

May 11, 2011 – Update #11-4

SIMCOE MUSKOKA DISTRICT HEALTH UNIT

- To Fluoridate or Not, That is the Question.

Dr. Charles Gardner and Dr. Peter Tanuseputro

The US Centre for Disease Control (CDC) has recognized water fluoridation as one of the 10 great public health achievements of the 20th century. Fluoridation reduces tooth decay by 20% to 40%¹. In Ontario, 75.9% of the population is covered by community water fluoridation (Source: Health Canada, 2007). Here in North Simcoe Muskoka, the numbers are significantly different:

- District of Muskoka: 51%
- Simcoe County: 2%
- Simcoe-Muskoka Combined: 7%

Why should communities fluoridate their water?

Studies show that water fluoridation is:

- safe and beneficial to oral health for all ages
- cost effective: less than \$1 / person / year to avoid \$38 in dental care
- particularly needed for low-income families.

The Council agreed to move forward with the following motion:

That based on the significant health information presented, the NSM LHIN Leadership Council supports the approved motion of the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit that stated “optimally fluoridated drinking water should be available to all residents on municipally supplied drinking water systems.”

COMPLEX CONTINUING CARE (CCC)

– Right Care, Right Time, Right Bed by June 30, 2011!

Three years ago patients were deemed to be chronic care and no clear definition existed for what a CCC patient was. In the process of developing a LHIN-wide system of care for CCC patients, providers projected 12 patient assessments per month – now it's up to that many in a week, sometimes in a day. While the system is still evolving significant steps forward have been made.

Three hospital organizations will host the LHIN-wide CCC program: Orillia Soldiers' Memorial Hospital; Muskoka Algonquin Healthcare; and Georgian Bay General Hospital. All hospitals within the LHIN will have access to CCC beds through a coordinated assessment and placement system managed by the NSM CCAC.

The Council supported the motion that all health service providers be required to adopt the program's policies and procedures as part of the implementation of a LHIN-wide CCC program. Two policies remain outstanding and will be finalized and brought back to the Council for the August meeting.

Further work continues on areas such as physician coverage, repatriation of patients and patient flow.

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¹ CDC, 2005. Water Fluoridation Training for Water Treatment Facility Operators



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CARE CONNECTIONS

- eHealth Council

Membership on the NSM LHIN eHealth Council reflects representation from a variety of NSM health service providers. The eHealth Council's role is to provide the Leadership Council with LHIN-wide technology recommendations to ensure all health service providers are working towards a coordinated electronic system across the LHIN. The Council's workplan and Information & Communications Technology Investment Planning Request Template were presented to Council and approved for use. It is expected that NSM hospitals and the CCAC will use the template when planning any technology changes within their organizations. The Council will then review to ensure alignment with LHIN-wide proposed directions. A copy of the workplan and planning template, along with a list of eHealth Council members, can be found on the LHIN's website under "NSM eHealth"

CARE CONNECTIONS

- Coordinating Councils

Carol Lambie, CEO, Waypoint Centre for Mental Health Care, provided an update on the Mental Health & Addictions Coordinating Council. Great progress has been made with further work continuing.

Next steps will involve populating the Coordinating Councils for the agreed-upon areas of focus. Membership invitation will be to health service provider CEOs who will solicit expressions of interest from their staff prior to the next meeting of each Council. Standardization of processes will be key to ensuring all Councils operate in a similar fashion.

CARE CONNECTIONS

- Governance

The Council agreed that upon recommendation of the Governance Working Group, a joint Governance / Administration working group should be struck to discuss how best to move the role of Care Connections governance forward.

Representatives from the Governance Working Group were identified: John McCullough, Waypoint Centre; Pauline Luening, CMHA; and Shelley Wells, CGMH. The administration volunteers are: Elisabeth Riley, OSMH; Jane Sinclair, County of Simcoe; Bill Davies, Muskoka-Parry Sound Community Mental Health Service; and Albert Henriques; South Georgian Bay Community Health Centre.

A meeting is being scheduled for this working group. Findings and recommendations will be reported back through the Leadership Council.

CARE CONNECTIONS

- Additional Priorities

Council agreed to include two additional priorities in the areas of focus identified for implementation in the first three years of the Care Connections 10-year plan:

- Vascular Health
- Maternal Child Community of Practice

NEXT STEPS

Monthly Meeting – Wednesday, June 8, 2011 from 4:00 – 7:00 pm.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the LHIN at

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