

NSM LHIN LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

July 11, 2012 – Update #12-6

SIMCOE MUSKOKA PUBLIC HEALTH UNIT

- **Healthy Communities Fund – Partnership Stream**

The *Healthy Communities Fund – Partnership Stream* was launched by the Ministry of Health Promotion and Sport in April 2010, replacing the provincial Heart Health and FOCUS Community Projects.

With funding from this program, SMDHU completed a comprehensive needs assessment and community consultation which was intended to be a ‘living’ document with regular updates. This document and process represents a significant investment of resources on the part of the health unit, provincial government and community as a whole, but has not been utilized to its full potential. SMDHU priorities selected through the community consultation process included healthy eating and physical activity.

The Healthy Communities Partnership Program was the intended approach for the health unit to work with the NSM LHIN on chronic disease prevention and health and wellness.

In 2011, the health unit submitted a detailed funding proposal to the *Healthy Communities Fund – Partnership Stream* to address partnership development and policy priorities identified through the community consultation process. No formal agreement or funding has been received to date for any projects across the province.

Funding has recently been made available for work on healthy eating and physical activity only for 2012-2013. No commitment has been made beyond March 2013.

Ontario’s Action Plan for Health Care’s goal is to make Ontario the healthiest place in North America to grow up and grow old. The action plan states that one way to achieve this goal is to keep Ontario healthy “*Helping*

people stay healthy must be our primary goal and it requires partnership.”

Keeping this in mind, the Council agreed to support the health unit through the following motion:

That the NSM LHIN Leadership Council endorses the SMDHU Board of Health resolution *Continuation of funding for the Healthy Communities Fund – Partnership Stream* which was supported by the Association of Local Public Health Agencies on June 11, 2012; and Urges the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care to take steps to allocate long-term funding to health units to support the *Healthy Communities Fund – Partnership Stream* as a key program to make Ontario the healthiest province possible.

CARE CONNECTIONS

Health System Coordinators

Jill Tettmann, Chair, Operations Committee

To support the **Care Connections** vision of implementing an integrated health system in North Simcoe Muskoka (NSM), LHIN-funded System Coordinators were put in place for Complex Continuing Care, Critical Care, Senior Friendly Hospitals, Alternate Level of Care, Integrated Regional Falls Programs, and Behavioural Support Systems.

The Operations Committee completed an evaluation of the positions and their impact on the system over the past two years. Overwhelmingly, the LHIN-wide Coordinator positions were seen to have improved system-wide program delivery, were an effective and efficient use of resources, and demonstrated opportunities for integration. In fact, integration was the area where coordinators were the most successful.

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As **Care Connections** moves forward with implementation of the twelve areas of focus, there is an increased need for system coordination and facilitation. System coordinators have been identified as critical keys to success, given the magnitude of work to be achieved over the next three years. NSM LHIN has received requests from coordinating councils for several new system coordinators. Building on the initial contribution of the NSM LHIN and health service providers over the first two years, the Operations Committee is recommending that NSM LHIN health service providers continue to build on the work of the system coordinators, and commit to making the necessary changes within their funding and resources available to achieve the vision of **Care Connections**.

For 2012-2013 Leadership Council supported the hiring of coordinators to assist in the implementation of initiatives developed by the following **Care Connections** councils:

- Complex Chronic Health Needs
- In Home & Community Capacity
- Surgery
- Medicine
- Mental Health & Addictions
- System Navigation

Further information on system coordinators will be provided in the quarterly updates of the Councils noted above.

Complex Continuing Care (CCC)

Natalie Bubela, Chair, CCC Steering Committee

The Complex Continuing Care LHIN-wide program (101 beds) is offered at 4 hospital sites across North Simcoe Muskoka:

- Georgian Bay General Hospital (32)
- Muskoka Algonquin Healthcare – Bracebridge (18)
- Muskoka Algonquin Healthcare – Huntsville (10)
- Orillia Soldiers' Memorial Hospital (42)

The NSM CCC LHIN-wide program has adopted a **"First Available Bed"** philosophy. It is communicated upfront at each site to the patient and/or their caregiver consenting to transition to a CCC bed, that they will be offered the first available bed that can reasonably meet their care needs.

The NSM CCC SC continues to develop policy supporting the goal of ensuring our residents receive the right care, in the right place, at the right time, by the right provider.

Coordinating Council Reports

In the next Leadership Council newsletter, updates will be reported by the following Councils:

- Complex Chronic Health Needs
- ICT / eHealth
- Mental Health & Addictions
- Transportation

NEXT MEETING

Monthly Meetings

- No August meeting
- Wednesday, September 12, 2012 – 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, October 10, 2012 – 4:00 – 7:00 p.m.

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

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