

eCommuniqué

Issue 2, November 2009

The Project:

Since March 2009, Eastern Counties' hospitals have been working collaboratively with the Champlain LHIN and other hospitals in our region to increase coordination and integration of hospital services. An integrated health system will help improve access, efficiency, effectiveness and safety of hospital services for all our residents.

What's New?

Specialty Working Groups

Working groups have been formed for hospital-based services for surgery, medicine, emergency, and mental health and addictions. These groups are made up of administrative and clinical representatives from each of the hospitals in Eastern Counties. Members are meeting to look at existing Eastern Counties hospital services by:

- 1) reviewing data and information describing their current state
- 2) mapping out current distribution
- 3) identifying gaps and opportunities

In January 2010, these working groups are aiming to deliver a report proposing options for distribution of hospital clinical services in Eastern Counties. The project Steering Committee members, in consultation with hospitals, community groups and the public, will further discuss these possible options in February and March 2010.

Citizens' Advisory Panel

A Citizens' Advisory Panel (CAP) is being formed to provide advice on many aspects of the Eastern Counties Hospital Clinical Services Distribution Plan, including input into options that will be considered. To ensure that the selection process of CAP members is non-biased and represents the different groups of people that comprise Eastern Counties, a lottery process will be used. This selection process is being coordinated by an outside firm, MASS LBP.

In early 2010, 5,000 packages will be mailed to the homes of randomly selected residents across Eastern Counties, who represent all walks of life. Recipients will be invited to participate in a draw that will determine the membership of the CAP. Meetings will begin shortly after the CAP is formed.

Those who are not participating in the CAP, but want to be involved in this project are welcome to join the many other opportunities for input that will occur in 2010. We will keep you posted through these eCommuniqués and our website.

Next:

Web Cast Presentations:

As part of our efforts to create the best health system in Champlain, we are constantly learning from one another's experiences, both locally, and in other health regions. Over the next few months, several guest speakers will make presentations on their "lessons learned" in similar projects, and provide ideas for consideration at our upcoming Steering Committee meetings.

The Ontario Telemedicine-Network (OTN) will be webcasting the presentations, which means they will be available for you to view on your computer through a link on our website. Stay tuned for upcoming presentations that will cover such topics as previous clinical service plans in other LHINs, French language health services, and Community Engagement.

More Information:

Please visit the Champlain LHIN website (www.champlainlhin.on.ca) for updates on this project.

The Champlain LHIN and Eastern Counties' hospitals invite you to participate in this important planning initiative, where we are "*Working together for optimal hospital care.*"