

eCommuniqué

Issue #3, August 2010

Eastern Counties Hospital Clinical Services Planning Project Update

Since November 2009, the Steering Committee for the Eastern Counties Hospital Clinical Services Plan has been working to develop and implement a plan that maximizes the coordination, quality and safety of care to residents of Eastern Counties in the Champlain LHIN. It has received input from clinical and administrative experts, a Citizens' Advisory Panel, and other community stakeholders.

The overall recommendations outline strategies that will make sure residents can:

- Access primary health care services;
- Obtain appropriate geriatric services as close to home as possible;

- Receive standardized, high quality mental health and addiction services and;
- Access needed surgery in a timely manner.

A preliminary report describing these proposals and the planning process in more detail has been prepared and presented to the Champlain LHIN Board of Directors. At its meeting on May 26, 2010, the Champlain LHIN Board endorsed the overall direction outlined in the Eastern Counties Hospital Clinical Services Plan Preliminary Report. The Board directed the Steering Committee to begin integrating the input from their consultations into an action plan for implementation.

Feedback to Date:

Consultations with Citizens of Eastern Counties

A Citizens' Advisory Panel (CAP) was formed and met for three full days to explore the many issues concerning the status of health and health-care services in the Eastern Counties. Citizens' participation was positive and led to many insightful recommendations that will be fully explored by the Steering Committee for the project. Some of its recommendations included:

- Explore the development of a single federation for the Eastern Counties hospitals to enhance collaboration and coordination of personnel, services, and resources
- Increase communication between hospitals in the Eastern Counties
- Explore increasing the use of nurses and nurse practitioners in hospital and community settings

- Increase the amount of non-urgent transportation for patients who do not have access to vehicles.

Consultation with Community Partners

Members of the Steering Committee and the Champlain LHIN have met with a number of stakeholders throughout Eastern Counties for input into this planning. Results of these consultations have suggested the following points be considered in the development of final recommendations and actions

- Involve community health service providers to more effectively address health service issues. For example, long-term care homes and primary health service providers can collaborate more with hospitals to improve access and delivery of services to residents.

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- Address needs of Francophones and access to French language services throughout.
- Link directly with regional health services providers to ensure we are meeting the needs of residents with higher acuity health needs.
- Consider needs of residents across the health continuum from health promotion and prevention to palliative care.

Next Steps:

Steering Committee Priorities

The Steering Committee is now working on developing action plans for the various proposals outlined in the preliminary report. Based on the feedback to date and the availability of time and resources, the Steering Committee decided to focus on two areas initially for Eastern Counties: mental health and addictions and geriatric services. Community and regional partners will be invited to join in this planning over the next several months as the Steering Committee prepares its final report for the Champlain LHIN Board later this fall. Marc Leboutillier, CEO Hawkesbury & District General Hospital has

agreed to lead a group to develop an action plan for mental health and addictions and Bonnie Ruest, CEO of St. Joseph Complex Continuing Care Centre, will chair a group to look at the coordination of geriatric services in Eastern Counties.

Your Input

The preliminary report is posted on the Champlain LHIN website and we encourage you to provide your input through the survey or email your comments. Please visit the Champlain LHIN website www.champlainlhin.on.ca.