

## LHIN Board agrees to support amalgamations of Addictions and Mental Health agencies across the South East

December 15, 2014

### NEWS

On December 15<sup>th</sup>, the South East Local Health Integration Network (LHIN) Board of Directors agreed to support the amalgamations of the seven Addictions and Mental Health (AMH) agencies in the South East to three agencies: *Addictions and Mental Health Services – Hastings Prince Edward; Addiction and Mental Health Services, Kingston Frontenac Lennox Addington; and Lanark, Leeds and Grenville Addictions and Mental Health.*

Recognizing the breadth and depth of the work completed to date by the current AMH agencies, the South East LHIN Board of Directors agreed that it was necessary to proceed to ensure AMH services were better designed to meet the need of our clients and their families.

The Governance Transition Teams, with their legal counsel and project managers, came together to develop their Integration Plans. The plans are the culmination of almost two years of engagement, analysis, discussion, design and revision for the redesign of the AMH system for the residents of the South East.

Once fully implemented, the new system will provide a common basket of services across the South East through the three regional AMH agencies and will:

- improve access and consistency to services;
- enable consumers/clients and caregivers to navigate more easily between different levels of care throughout the region; and
- strengthen partnerships with key stakeholders such as municipal housing, social services, and the criminal justice system (including the police and the courts).

A detailed communications plan is in development and will support ongoing communications to staff, health service providers, clients, and the broader public throughout the amalgamation process.

The vision of the redesigned AMH system is “to ensure patients receive the right care, at the right time, in the right place, to enhance capacity of providers and the system, and to reduce stigma.”

This vision aligns with the South East LHIN plan, which seeks to enhance the capacity of providers within an integrated regional system. It is also part of the LHIN’s Integrated Health Services Plan, *Better Integration, Better Health Care* and aligns with Ontario’s *Action Plan for Health Care*.

### QUOTES

“The current health service provider boards have demonstrated by both their words and actions, their willingness and commitment to take this very important first step towards achieving the Ideal Individual Experience for our clients. The commitment, drive, thoughtfulness and enormous effort delivered by the members of the Governance Transition Teams of the integrating agencies and their full boards are to be commended.”

- Donna Segal, South East LHIN Board Chair

### QUICK FACTS

- The redesign of Addictions and Mental Health services began in April 2013.
- Launch of the redesign occurred in June of 2013 at a ‘Visioning Day’ attended by more than 180 Addictions and Mental Health stakeholders including: community addiction and mental health service providers, judicial representatives, municipal government staff and service providers, first response workers, and consumers/clients.
- The Redesign Task Force developed the Ideal Individual Experience and service design elements during the redesign phase of the initiative which was completed in November 2013.
- The proposed new design is targeted for implementation in fiscal 2015/16.
- The Board has received continual feedback over the last 14 months and was regularly informed by the Redesign Task Force, the Expert Panel, stakeholder feedback engagement sessions and board-to-board discussions
- The Future State Planning Phase of the redesign was a seven-week intensive engagement process that brought together more than 80 providers, clients, and stakeholders from across the region. Regional engagement sessions were also held during this time and informed the report presented to the LHIN Board on August 25<sup>th</sup>
- In August 2014, the LHIN Board directed seven health service providers funded by the LHIN (the “Parties”) to work toward a facilitated integration through the development of integration and transition plans for each of the proposed Addiction and Mental Health Redesign Entities and Strategic Alliance (“AMH Redesign”).

### ***For more information contact:***

#### **Caitlin den Boer**

Communications Lead

South East Local Health Integration Network (LHIN)

613.967.0196 ex. 2240

613.242.7655 – Cell

[Caitlin.denboer@lhins.on.ca](mailto:Caitlin.denboer@lhins.on.ca)