

Three physicians take on Leadership role in South East LHIN

Primary Care Co-Leads to act as Champions for Community Health Links

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News

The South East Local Health Integration Network (LHIN) today took another important step in advancing primary care through enhanced collaboration and coordination of health care services by naming three physicians from across the South East LHIN as Primary Care Co-Leads.

Dr. Robert Webster, Dr Andrew Everett, and Dr. Deanna Russell will play a key role to champion community Health Links initiatives, and assist in transforming the way care is delivered across the south east region. The Co-Leads will also provide strategic advice to the South East LHIN in facilitating physician engagement and will work to ensure the alignment of Health Links activities with other key initiatives including the Hospice Palliative Care initiative and improved chronic disease care.

The Primary Care Lead position was previously held by Dr. Jonathan Kerr who was instrumental to the successful implementation of the seven Health Links and the development of the South East Health Integrated Information Portal (SHIIP) as its key technology enabler over the previous four years.

Dr. Robert Webster is a Belleville-based family physician practicing comprehensive family medicine including inpatient care. Dr. Webster is also the site Director for Queen's University Department of Family Medicine residency program in Belleville, and will work together with the Quinte Health Link and Rural Hastings Health Link.

Dr. Andrew Everett is a Brockville-based family physician with special interests in addiction and sports medicine and is the lead Physician of the Upper Canada Family Health Team. Dr Everett will work closely with the Thousand Islands Health Link and Rideau Tay Health Link.

Dr. Deanna Russell is a Kingston-based family physician who also has an office on Wolfe Island, and is the lead Physician for the Kingston Family Health Team. Dr. Russell will work in partnership with the Kingston Health Link, Rural Kingston Health Link, and Salmon River Health Link.

The introduction of Primary Care Leads in each of the province's 14 LHINs was endorsed by both the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care and the Ontario Medical Association in November, 2012. Since that time, there have been ongoing concerted efforts across the province to enhance engagement of primary care providers, hospitals and other partners in transformational initiatives.

The establishment of three Primary Care Co-Leads across the South East LHIN will support ongoing efforts to ensure primary health care issues and priorities are communicated at the family health care providers level throughout the LHIN and align with the Ontario Government's [*Patient First: Action Plan for Health Care*](#).

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QUOTES

"I am excited to welcome three new Primary Care Physician Co-Leads to the South East LHIN. These Physicians bring a wealth of professional experience that will continue to enhance health care services in our catchment area. I wish them all the best and every success in their work with LHIN."

- **Lou Rinaldi, MPP for Northumberland-Quinte West**

"I gratefully acknowledge Dr. Kerr for his achievements and wish him all the best in his future endeavors. His dedication to enhancing patient experience and care led to strengthened collaboration amongst primary care providers and with other parts of the healthcare system. Recognizing that primary care is a critical enabler in building a regional system of integrated health care services for all, the LHIN is pleased to welcome these three local physician leaders. Their aspiration to strengthen partnerships, at regional and provincial levels, will be instrumental to the success of the challenges ahead."

- **Paul Huras, CEO South East LHIN**

"All three Co-leads are truly committed to improving access to primary and coordinated care for those patients who have the most complex health needs in our region. Knowing that together they hold an impressive combination of clinical skills, leadership acumen, and system thinking, I am confident that they have the tools required to be tremendous Primary Care Co-leads."

- **Jonathan Kerr, former South East LHIN Primary Care Lead**

"We will work closely together to represent Primary Care for the South East LHIN at the provincial, regional and local levels with a particular emphasis on system-wide improvement initiatives such as Health Links and Health Care Tomorrow."

- **Dr. Robert Webster, South East LHIN Primary Care Co-lead**

"We strongly believe that the sustainability of our health care system rests on the continued vertical and horizontal integration of health services, while putting the patient at the center of this care and we will work together as a team to achieve this vision."

- **Dr. Andrew Everett, South East LHIN Primary Care Co-lead**

"We look forward to working with primary care toward achieving better health through proactive, integrated and responsive health care in partnership with the community of the South East LHIN."

- **Dr. Deanna Russell, South East LHIN Primary Care Co-lead**

QUICK FACTS

- The South East LHIN works with a team of health care leads on dedicated files, the team involves:
 - Dr. Ken Edwards, Emergency Department Physician Lead
 - Dr. John Muscedere Critical Care Physician Lead
 - Dr. Robert Webster, Primary Care Physician Co-lead
 - Dr Andrew Everett, Primary Care Physician Co-lead
 - Dr. Deanna Russell, Primary Care Physician Co-lead
- There are more than 4, 000 primary care entities in the province – 374 of them are located in the South East LHIN.
- There are seven approved community Health Links in the South East LHIN out of which five were early adopters. All Health Links in the south east region are led by primary care organizations, more precisely:
 - Four by Community Health Centres
 - Two by Family Health Teams
 - One by a Family Health Organization
- Community Health Links have proven to be an innovative approach to coordinate local health care resources, providing timely care to high-needs patients. Health Links enable patient to receive efficient and more effective care, while being supported by a team of providers at all levels of the healthcare system.

For more information

Learn more about the South East LHIN community Health Links by visiting the Goals and Achievements section of the South East LHIN website www.southeastlhin.on.ca.

For more information about the South East LHIN, contact:

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