

LOCAL HEALTH INTEGRATION NETWORK INVITES HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS AT THE PLANNING TABLE

Group of Health Care Professionals to Provide On-Going Advice in Planning for Health Services

NEWS

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BELLEVILLE – The South East Local Health Integration Network (South East LHIN) has enlisted the expertise of health care professionals to assist with planning for health services by establishing the region's first Health Professionals Advisory Committee (HPAC).

Beginning in the spring, the twelve members of this committee – all practicing health care professionals who live or work within the South East LHIN geographic area – will take part in regular discussions that along with other activities, are designed to help inform planning efforts.

The first 12 members were announced today by the South East LHIN CEO Paul Huras. The remaining 2 will be announced later this spring.

The creation of a committee is part of a range of tactics being used to effectively engage communities in health care planning. Planning drives developments for health services across the region.

The committee's discussions will focus on considerations related to the *Integrated Health Services Plan* (IHSP), a three-year plan for enhancing health care delivery in the region.

“In planning for health services, we are constantly reaching out to communities – both members of the public and individual health service providers,” said Georgina Thompson, Chair, South East LHIN Board of Directors. “Their experiences and insights help to inform our plans, and now we have a group of health care practitioners committed to providing advice for the next one to three years. We are looking forward to their continued input.”

“These practicing health care professionals will be a valuable source of on-the-ground expertise and advice for us in planning for health services that support a regional – and more integrated – system of patient-centered care,” said Paul Huras, CEO, South East LHIN. “As health care planners and regional system managers, we know that a system that works together is more effective and leads to better access for its users. Recent initiatives in our area, such as the EASIER+ and SMILE programs, have been designed with coordination and access for patients in mind. Both programs involve a collaborative approach to service delivery involving multiple health care professionals, front-line workers and organizations. This committee will provide us with another excellent opportunity to work with health care practitioners.”

“As health care professionals who work at the front line, some would say the sharp end of care, we have the best interests of patients at heart,” said Ms. Kelly Baker. “I am pleased to have been asked to contribute to ongoing planning efforts aimed at strengthening our local health care system.”]

QUICK FACTS

- The Health Professionals Advisory Committee (HPAC) includes a cross-representation of health care professionals – physicians, nurses, nurse practitioners, dietitians, physiotherapists, pharmacists and social workers are all represented on the committee.
- Participation on the Health Professionals Advisory Committee (HPAC) is strictly voluntary, with no remuneration.
- The committee will focus on considerations related to the development of the *Integrated Health Services Plan*, published by the South East LHIN in November 2006.
- Close to 1,000 individuals – including physicians, nurses, other health professionals, support workers, and labour unions – participated in the community engagement process, which led to the development of the 2006 *Integrated Health Services Plan*. This effort involved 109 meetings in 22 communities.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Read the backgrounder, or visit the South East LHIN’s website at www.southeastlin.on.ca

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