

LOCAL HEALTH INTEGRATION NETWORK SENIOR MANAGER EARNS PhD *Head of Planning, Integration and Community Engagement Among Handful of LHIN Executives with PhD*

NEWS

July 10th, 2008

BELLEVILLE – The South East Local Health Integration Network's (South East LHIN) senior management team now includes a PhD. Nancy Sears, the South East LHIN's Senior Director of Planning, Integration and Community Engagement, received her PhD in Health Administration specializing in Health System Organization and Management from the University of Toronto's Faculty of Medicine on June 13, 2008.

Sears is among a handful of LHIN executives in the province to have attained a doctorate. Her doctoral research was a first-of-its-kind study measuring and describing adverse events in home care patients in Ontario.

Sears is a life long resident of the Kingston area. She also holds a Master's degree in Public Administration and a Bachelor's degree in Nursing Science, both from Queen's University. She is the former Chief Executive Officer for the Kingston, Frontenac, Lennox & Addington region Community Care Access Centre, and is a registered nurse.

Sears has been with the South East LHIN since January 2006, where she heads up all regional health system planning, integration and community engagement activities. In the past several months, this has included the development of a three year, multi-million dollar program to help seniors stay at home. The SMILE (Seniors Managing Independent Living Easily) program is part of a province-wide strategy aimed at offering better community supports to seniors to enable them to stay in their homes longer and reduce pressures on Ontario's emergency rooms.

QUOTES

"I have known Nancy professionally for a number of years and have tremendous respect for her commitment and dedication to improving people's quality of life, especially those who need care or support at home," said Georgina Thompson, Chair, South East LHIN Board of Directors. "She completely understands the patient experience, the health care environment in our region – and her management acumen is bang-on."

"We are very proud of Nancy's achievement," Paul Huras, CEO, South East LHIN. "It is the top honour in the field of health care administration, and we are fortunate to have someone of her caliber on our team."

QUICK FACTS

- The South East LHIN senior executive team includes Paul Huras, CEO; Sherry Kennedy, Senior Director, Performance, Contracts and Allocations; Paula Heinemann, Manager Corporate Services and Nancy Sears, Senior Director, Planning, Integration and Community Engagement
- Together with their staff, they are responsible for administrating a budget of approximately \$900 million (for 2008-2009)

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Visit the South East LHIN's website at www.southeasthin.on.ca