

News Release/Pour publication immédiate

South East LHIN Inviting Region-wide Public Reaction and Input to Healthcare Plans

Belleville, Ontario (March 21, 2011) – The South East Local Health Integration Network (LHIN) today launched a region-wide Community Engagement process that will enable residents across the south east to have their say in how they receive health care through the LHIN's Clinical Services Roadmap initiative. Using a dedicated website, www.southeasthin.on.ca/healthcareroadmap, residents across southeastern Ontario can obtain background on the Clinical Services Roadmap (announced last July) and the operational work plans it has produced in each of seven major clinical areas. Visitors to the site will then be invited to complete one or more online workbooks that will capture and measure their opinion and reaction to those plans.

The individual clinical areas of opportunity for which work plans are being developed include Cardiac Care, Emergency Department Wait Times, Restorative Care, Mental Health and Addiction Services, Surgical Care, Hospital Acquired Infections (HAI) and Maternal and Newborn Care.

Once an individual completes a workbook, their reaction and input can be collected and analyzed to determine where the clinical plans might have to be adjusted before they are finalized and implemented over the next one to three years.

Taken together, the operational plans that make up the Clinical Services Roadmap are intended to create a regionalized system of integrated health care that will improve access for residents to high-quality health care in the right place, at the right time. It aims to reduce inefficiencies and eliminate the red tape and gaps patients can experience in seeking health care. All seven hospitals across the south east region and the Community Care Access Centre (CCAC) are in agreement that the Clinical Services Roadmap is the right thing to do and now is the right time to do it.

"The South East LHIN is firmly committed to the importance of public engagement and the need to actively seek out and incorporate the community's input into plans that might affect the way they receive health care," said Board Chair Georgina Thompson. "We're going to ensure we capture that input before any of these operational work plans are finalized," she added.

The Community Engagement process will span eight weeks to provide adequate time to encourage residents to share their feedback. In addition to the website and online workbooks, several face-to-face meetings will be held throughout the region with key groups such as seniors, French speaking residents and First Nations groups.

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