

NEWS

CITIZENS' REFERENCE PANELISTS TO PROVIDE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE LOCAL HEALTH SYSTEM

February 23, 2009

Thirty-six people from across the region served by the South East Local Health Integration Network (SE LHIN) have been randomly selected to participate in a special panel that will help shape the delivery of health care services for the next three years.

The SE LHIN's Citizens' Reference Panel includes citizens from Hastings, Lennox and Addington, Frontenac, Prince Edward and Leeds counties. This panel is part of a major community engagement initiative called ENGAGE 2009. This initiative is designed to hear from citizens, front-line health care workers and users of the system as the LHIN prepares its next three-year strategic plan, known as the Integrated Health Services Plan.

The SE LHIN is one of 14 public agencies established by the Ontario government to plan, manage and fund the health care system at the local and regional level.

The Citizens' Reference Panel will meet over three Saturdays to hear from health experts, to host a public meeting and to create a series of recommendations for the strategic plan.

QUOTES

"As we prepare our next integrated health service plan, we have an excellent opportunity to take a careful look at our regional health care priorities for the next three years," says Georgina Thompson, Chair of the SE LHIN. "It is our job to work with the health care community and citizens to ensure our priorities and standards are the right ones."

"We understand the importance of getting this plan right. It is a tough task and it requires balancing many different and important interests, demands and pressures," adds Paul Huras, Chief Executive Officer, SE LHIN. "That is why we are reaching out to citizens throughout the region for their input and assistance. After all, those who use health care services and those who provide them are also the taxpayers who pay for the system."

QUICK FACTS

- Invitations to take part in the ENGAGE: Citizens' Reference Panel were issued to 5,000 randomly selected households across the South East. Those who were interested in participating in the intensive three-day process then entered a second stage lottery to become one of the final 36 selected participants.
- The panel will meet on Feb. 28 and March 21 at the Arthur Child Heritage Museum in Gananoque and on March 7 at Memorial Hall, Kingston City Hall.

LEARN MORE

For more information about the ENGAGE 2009 activities, visit

http://www.southeasthin.on.ca/IntegratedHealthServicePlan.aspx?ekmense1=e2f22c9a_72_204_btnlink .

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