

NEWS

PROVIDERS AND PUBLIC GETTING ENGAGED TO BUILD A STRONGER SYSTEM OF CARE IN THE SOUTH EAST

February 9, 2009

As the South East Local Health Integration Network prepares to draft the next three-year strategic plan to direct the delivery of health care services in the region, a major effort to obtain input from service providers, users of health care in the South East, front line health care workers and the public at large is well underway.

Called an Integrated Health Service Plan, the three-year detailed strategy will guide the decisions of the SE LHIN from April 2010 to March 2013 and will assist in delivering on the LHIN's vision of achieving better health through proactive, integrated and responsive health care in partnership with an informed community.

The South East LHIN is moving forward with a series of events called ENGAGE 2009 that are aimed at creating an informed dialogue with health care stakeholders. Engagement activities began Jan. 28 and 29, as more than 130 health care providers from across the region gathered for an informative two-day session to hear detailed results from an industry-leading demographic and health service utilization mapping exercise called ReCAP that helps pinpoint health-related needs and opportunities within the South East. Using several drivers identified in the data, the providers identified many suggestions that will be included in a report back from the session and included in the IHSP.

Many of the suggestions from the provider's workshop on health services and integration planning will be taken forward to inform the next steps of the community engagement plan – a special citizen's reference panel that will involve 36 randomly-selected individuals from across the region; and day-long community open houses in each of the 15 sub-LHIN geographical areas across Southeastern Ontario.

QUOTES

"We know that by working together we strengthen our ability to make decisions. We are building our understanding based on a solid review of the problems and opportunities that exist within our system," says Georgina Thompson, Chair of the SE LHIN. "Experts contribute essential information and knowledge to decision making – but we also know decisions are more effectiveness and sustainable when factors such as local knowledge and perspectives and sensitivity to community context are part of the decision-making equation. This is about your stories and your thoughts."

"It is our job to work with the health care community and citizens to make sure our priorities and standards are the right ones. It is a tough task and it requires balancing many different interests, demands and pressures," adds Paul Huras, Chief Executive Officer, SE LHIN. "Residents of our region have an important role to play – after all, they not only use health care services, but as taxpayers they pay for the system."

QUICK FACTS

- ReCAP is a highly-detailed project to better understand health care needs and outcomes in the region. The data it provides helps us better anticipate the needs for change in services across the South East. Some of the data is summarized in 15 two-page Sub-LHIN planning profiles which are available on the SE LHIN website at <http://www.southeasthin.on.ca/Page.aspx?id=2350> .
- 5,000 households were randomly selected to receive an invitation to join the lottery to be one of 36 chosen for the ENGAGE: Citizens' Reference Panel which will meet on Feb. 28, March 7 and March 21. Successful candidates will be notified on Feb. 12. The general public will be invited to attend a special discussion at 1 pm on March 7 in Kingston featuring Dr. Brian Goldman from CBC Radio's *White Coat Black Art* program.
- Presentations from the Jan 28-29 ENGAGE: Providers' Workshop on Health Services and Integration Planning are available on the SE LHIN website at <http://www.southeasthin.on.ca/Page.aspx?id=2354> . Once finalized, the report from this session will also be made available.
- Details are still being finalized for the 15 Sub-LHIN Open Houses. The following dates are currently being proposed. Watch for further details as the dates near.

Date	Open House Location	Sub-LHIN region
7-Apr	Mountain Grove	Addington, North and Central Frontenac
8-Apr	Odessa	Stone Mills, Loyalist
14-Apr	Kingston	Kingston & Islands
15-Apr	Trenton	Quinte West
20-Apr	Belleville	Belleville
21-Apr	Sydenham	South Frontenac
22-Apr	Deseronto	Tyendinaga, Napanee
23-Apr	Picton	Prince Edward County
29-Apr	Madoc	Central Hastings
5-May	Smiths Falls	Smiths Falls, Perth, Lanark
6-May	Elgin	Rideau Lakes
12-May	Brockville	Brockville
13-May	Prescott	South East Leeds Grenville
14-May	Gananoque	Gananoque, Leeds
15-May	Bancroft	North Hastings

LEARN MORE

For more information about the South East LHIN, visit www.southeasthin.on.ca

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