

News Release/Pour publication immédiate

South East LHIN Seeking Region-wide Public Reaction and Input to Healthcare Plan

Belleville, Ontario (June 7, 2012) – The South East Local Health Integration Network (LHIN) today launched a Community Engagement process to encourage residents across the south east to have their say in the development of a region-wide Integrated Health Services Plan (IHSP).

By visiting a dedicated website, www.southeasthin.on.ca/OurHealthPlan, residents across southeastern Ontario can learn about the IHSP, then complete an online workbook that will capture and measure their opinions and priorities on the types of health services they feel are most important. Those opinions and priorities will then influence the final version of the plan. There will be no attempt – nor will it be possible – to identify individuals who share their input apart from their age, gender and the general part of this region in which they live.

LHINs were created to make sure that important decisions about health care are made locally, by people who live in and understand the community. At the same time, LHINs have to make sure that services are delivered as effectively and efficiently as possible, so they will be affordable today and into the future.

To prepare for that future, the SE LHIN must develop a three-year plan that meets the unique needs of its population in South East Ontario as well as reflects health care priorities for all of Ontario. This Integrated Health Services Plan will help everyone get improved access to the *right care* at the *right time* in the *right place*. To create the right IHSP, however, the LHIN needs to hear from as broad a cross-section of residents across this region as possible. To do that, the LHIN wants to make it as simple and convenient as possible for people to register their opinions by using the IHSP website.

“The South East LHIN is firmly committed to the importance of public engagement and the need to actively seek out and consider the community’s input into plans that might affect the way they receive health care,” said LHIN CEO Paul Huras. “We’re going to ensure we capture that input so that it can be part of the spectrum of ideas we’ll be looking at as we develop our IHSP,” he added.

The Community Engagement process will span five weeks from June 7 until July 12, to provide adequate time to encourage residents to share their feedback.

--30--

For more information, contact:

Michael Alexander 613-967-0196 (ext 2229) – michael.alexander@lhins.on.ca

Integrated Health Services Plan (IHSP) Community Engagement Backgrounder

- The South East LHIN Integrated Health Services Plan is a plan developed every three years to guide the delivery of health services in this region. While it reflects overall provincial health care issues and programs, and takes into account best-practices from other countries, it also identifies strategies and priorities to achieve improvements in access to health services and care that are attuned to local needs.
- To accurately reflect those local needs, the Community Engagement process is a critically-important component in the development of the IHSP3 – so named for the fact that this will be the third Integrated Health Services Plan developed by the SE LHIN since its inception in 2006.
- In a spirit of continuous improvement over the predominantly face-to-face Community Engagement process used by the SELHIN to develop their second Integrated Health Services Plan (IHSP2) in 2009, it was determined that this current public engagement process should lean heavily on new social media and online resources to ensure that we can reach and solicit input from as broad a cross-section of residents across this region as possible.
- Residents are encouraged to visit a dedicated website, www.southeastlhin.on.ca/OurHealthPlan where they can learn more about IHSP3 and where they can complete a workbook to share their opinions for consideration in the plan.
- The online workbook presents a number of health-care scenarios that describe various types of care and the types of people who rely on them. Unlike a basic Question/Answer survey, the workbook is an interactive exercise that delves deeper to elicit experiences and preferences from the individual filling it out. It will take between 15-20 minutes to complete.
- The LHIN will seek help in spreading the word about IHSP3 and its dedicated website from its Health Service Provider partners across this region; from Colleges and Universities, Libraries, Churches, School Boards, Chambers of Commerce and other organizations to alert as many residents of this region as possible to the importance of visiting the site to have their say.
- The results of this online activity will provide quantitative and qualitative information to help gauge and guide public input into the development of IHSP3.