

News Release / Pour publication immédiate

SOUTH EAST LHIN INCREASING COMMUNITY-BASED CARE IN AREA *\$1.9 Million Investment To Help Ease Hospital Overcrowding*

BELLEVILLE – The South East Local Health Integration Network (LHIN) is increasing access to community health services in its service area for patients who no longer need acute hospital care but instead need long-term or community-based care, CEO Paul Huras announced today.

“We want people to receive appropriate care at home or in other community-based settings, so they are more comfortable and are closer to family and loved ones,” said Mr. Huras. “We’re also creating more alternatives to acute care hospital beds, so hospitals can better use their acute care resources for patients who need them the most.”

The South East LHIN has worked collaboratively with local health care partners and the provincial government to develop the local solutions announced today as part of measures to alleviate alternate level of care pressures in hospitals. These investments include:

- \$ 1,141,300 to increase home care and community support services. Of this total, Hastings is receiving \$456,500 and Kingston is receiving \$684,800.
- \$ 308,600 to assign CCAC case managers to hospital emergency departments to assess and divert clients to more appropriate community services. Of this total, Hastings will receive \$154,300 and Kingston will receive \$154,300.
- \$ 168,400 for a geriatric emergency management program to increase emergency department nursing services for seniors with complex functional and/or psychological challenges

“ We believe that quality health care for patients is best delivered with input from local health care partners, said Minister of Health and Long-Term Care George Smitherman. “These innovative and collaborative partnerships will help patients get the care they need and provide them with a higher level of comfort.”

Mr. Huras also announced allocations for the following investments under the government’s Emergency Department Action Plan, announced last October:

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- \$333,700 as part of the \$5.3-million investment to address pressures in 10 communities experiencing the most serious long-term care and community care pressures. This funding is targeted towards increased home care and community services to facilitate early discharge.

Today's announcement is just the latest example of the steps the government has taken to improve access to community care and reduce pressures on hospitals in South East LHIN. Other recent initiatives include:

- one new community health centre and three satellites centres.

Hastings:

- 192 long-term care beds scheduled to be developed

Kingston:

- 160 long-term care beds scheduled to be developed
- 38 interim long-term care beds announced in the last two years

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