

# ***NEWS***

## **MORE THAN 100 PEOPLE PARTICIPATE IN DISCUSSION TO SHAPE HEALTH CARE DELIVERY IN THE SOUTH EAST**

March 7, 2009

More than 100 people provided informed input into health care delivery across southeastern Ontario at an innovative forum at Kingston City Hall this afternoon. The event was hosted by 36 individuals from across the region who make up a Citizens' Reference Panel and included a talk from Dr. Brian Goldman, host of CBC radio's *White Coat, Black Art* program.

The discussion was part of a series of activities called ENGAGE 2009 being rolled out by the South East Local Health Integration Network (SE LHIN) as it prepares to draft the next three-year strategic plan to direct the delivery of health care services in the region. ENGAGE is a major effort to obtain input from service providers, users of health care, front line health care workers and the public at large.

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

There are significant opportunities for further public input into the strategic plan, as the SE LHIN plans to hold open houses in 15 different geographical areas in April and May.

### **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."

"The response and level of engagement we are getting from citizens is tremendous. We know that people are passionate about health care. They want health care that is safe, has good health outcomes and is affordable for them as taxpayers. 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**

- The ENGAGE: Citizens' Reference Panel is made up of 36 randomly-selected individuals from across the region. 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.
- ENGAGE events are informed by the LHIN's Regional Capacity Assessment and Projection project, a highly-detailed initiative to better understand health care needs and outcomes in the region. The data it provides helps the LHIN 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> .
- Details are still being developed for the community open houses and the latest information is available on the SE LHIN website. Confirmed details include:

**April 7: Addington, North & Central Frontenac** (Township of Addington Highlands Recreation Centre)

12-1 pm: Municipal and elected representatives

1-2:30 pm: Front-line health providers/organizations

2:30-4:30 pm: General public

**April 8: Stone Mills, Loyalist** (Meeting Room, Odessa Fairgrounds)

10-11 am: Municipal and elected representatives

11-12:30 pm: Front-line health providers/organizations

12:30-3:30 pm: General public

**April 14: Kingston & The Islands** (Room B - Seniors' Association Kingston Centre)

10-11 am: Municipal and elected representatives

11-12:30 pm: Front-line health providers/organizations

1:30-4 pm: General public

6-7 pm: Francophone public (Community Room, Isabel Turner Branch, Kingston-Frontenac Public Library)

7-9 pm: General public (Community Room, Isabel Turner Branch, Kingston-Frontenac Public Library)

**April 15: Quinte West, Brighton** (King Edward Park Community Centre, Brighton)

10-11 am: Municipal and elected representatives

11-12:30 pm: Front-line health providers/organizations

12:30-3:30 pm: General public

**April 20: Belleville** (Meeting Room, Belleville Public Library)

10-11 am: Municipal and elected representatives

11-12:30 pm: Front-line health providers/organizations

12:30-3:30 pm: General public

6-7 pm: Front-line health providers/organizations (Parkdale Community Centre)

7-9 pm: General public (Parkdale Community Centre)

**April 21: South Frontenac** (Storrington Lion's Hall, Battersea Road)

10-11 am: Municipal and elected representatives

11-12:30 pm: Front-line health providers/organizations

12:30-3:30 pm: General public

**April 22: Greater Napanee, Deseronto, Tyendinaga** (Community Room, Strathcona Paper Centre)

10-11 am: Municipal and elected representatives

11-12:30 pm: Front-line health providers/organizations

12:30-3:30 pm: General public

**April 23: Prince Edward County** (Crystal Palace, Prince Edward Community Centre)

10-11 am: Municipal and elected representatives

11-12:30 pm: Front-line health providers/organizations

12:30-3:30 pm: General public

**April 29: Central Hastings** (Meeting Room, Madoc Public Library)

10:30-11:30 am: Municipal and elected representatives

11:30-12:30 pm: Front-line health providers/organizations

12:30-3:30 pm: General public

**May 5: Smiths Falls, Perth & Lanark** (Lounge, Curling Club, Smiths Falls)

10:30-11:30 am: Municipal and elected representatives

11:30-12:30 pm: Front-line health providers/organizations

12:30-3:30 pm: General public

**May 6: Rideau Lakes** (Elgin Municipal Complex)

10:30-11:30 am: Municipal and elected representatives

11:30-12:30 pm: Front-line health providers/organizations

12:30-3:30 pm: General public

**May 12: Brockville** (YMCA, Brockville)

10-11 am: Session for municipal and elected representatives

11-12:30 pm: Front-line health providers/organizations

12:30-3:30 pm: General public

**May 13: South East Leeds & Grenville** (Location TBD)

10:30-11:30 am: Session for municipal and elected representatives

11:30-12:30 pm: Front-line health providers/organizations

12:30-3:30 pm: General public

**May 14: Gananoque** (Location TBD)

10:30-11:30 am: Session for municipal and elected representatives

11:30-12:30 pm: Front-line health providers/organizations

12:30-3:30 pm: General public

**May 15: North Hastings** (Lobby, North Hastings Community Centre)

10:30-11:30 am: Session for municipal and elected representatives

11:30-12:30 pm: Front-line health providers/organizations

1:30-3:30 pm: General public

## **LEARN MORE**

For more information about the South East LHIN, visit [www.southeasthin.on.ca](http://www.southeasthin.on.ca)

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