

eCommuniqué

Issue 1, Aug. 24, 2009

Background:

The Eastern Counties' Hospital Clinical Services Distribution Plan is being developed as part of the Champlain LHIN's goal to establish an integrated hospital system across its region. Such a system is needed to improve access, efficiency, effectiveness, safety and satisfaction with hospital services for our residents.

To identify options for potential integration and geographical distribution of hospital services in Eastern Counties, the Champlain LHIN is working collaboratively with the five hospitals in the area (Cornwall Community Hospital, Glengarry Memorial Hospital, Hawkesbury & District General Hospital, St Joseph's Continuing Care Centre and Winchester District Memorial Hospital).

The Planning Project:

A Steering Committee for the project has been launched, representing the Champlain LHIN and the Chief Executive Officers and Board Chairs from each of the five Eastern Counties' hospitals. Other members of the steering committee include representatives from the Eastern Ontario Health Unit, The Ottawa Hospital, Montfort Hospital, and Champlain Community Care Access Centre.

Today, members of the steering committee met with the media to provide a technical briefing on the planning process and introduce a variety of ways for the public to be involved in this process.

This eCommuniqué is the first in a series of public information bulletins available to keep you informed in each step of this planning process.

Next Steps:

Working groups will start meeting this September to examine existing hospital services in four specialty areas: emergency, surgery, medicine and psychiatry / mental health / addictions. Their role is to come up with options for improved distribution and integration of those services. The working groups are comprised of hospital clinicians and administrators from each of the five Eastern Counties' hospitals.

Also in Fall 2009, a Citizens' Advisory Council will be launched to represent the people who live and work in Eastern Counties. Council members will be asked to provide advice on many aspects of the process and on the impact of a hospital clinical services distribution plan for Eastern Counties. A call for volunteers who would like to apply to participate in this Council will be announced soon.

The Council is one of several ways the Champlain LHIN hopes to engage people in this planning process and to ensure local communities participate in shaping directions and goals for an integrated health system. As well, several public and stakeholder consultations will occur in early 2010.

For more information:

Please visit the Champlain LHIN website (www.champlainlhin.on.ca) for updates on this project.

The Champlain LHIN and Eastern Counties' hospitals invite you to participate in this important planning initiative, where we are "***Working together for optimal hospital care.***"

If your group or organization wants to learn more about this planning process, members of the Champlain LHIN and Steering Committee for the project are available to make a presentation at your upcoming meeting. Please call Lisa Sullivan toll-free at 1.866.902.5446 x 2024 (or 613.747.3215), or send an email to lisa.sullivan@lhins.on.ca.