

Champlain Local Health Integration Network (LHIN) and Eastern Counties: Working Together for Optimal Hospital Care

Citizens' Advisory Panel begins providing input on hospital services in Eastern Counties

NEWS

Thursday, March 18, 2010

A panel of 24 citizens has started its work to identify options for potential integration and geographical distribution of hospital services in Eastern Counties.

A clinical services distribution plan for Eastern Counties is being developed as part of the Champlain LHIN's goal to establish an integrated hospital system across our region. An integrated system aims to improve access to hospital services, efficiency, effectiveness, safety, and patient satisfaction. The Champlain LHIN is working collaboratively on the plan with the five hospitals in Eastern Counties. They are Cornwall Community Hospital, Glengarry Memorial Hospital, Hawkesbury & District General Hospital, Winchester District Memorial Hospital and St. Joseph's Continuing Care Centre – Complex Continuing Care. The Ottawa Hospital and Montfort Hospital are also involved.

The Champlain LHIN is convening the Citizens' Advisory Panel to ensure that a broader public plays an important role in the planning process. Panelists were randomly selected through a lottery process. Invitations were sent to 5,000 households throughout the Eastern Counties. Recipients were then eligible to submit their name in a draw to determine the membership of the Citizens' Advisory Panel. The final Panel is composed of 24 Panelists; it is balanced for geography, age and preferred language (English and French).

When its work is completed, the Citizens' Advisory Panel will submit a report to a steering committee overseeing clinical services planning in Eastern Counties. The steering committee will consider the report when making recommendations to the Champlain LHIN Board of Directors. Although the Citizens' Advisory Panel meetings

are not open to the public, its report will be made public and there will be more opportunities for the community to be involved in this planning process. Consultation with other key individuals and groups will continue in March and April, 2010. More information about how to provide input is available on the Champlain LHIN website (www.champlainhin.on.ca).

QUOTES

“We at the Champlain LHIN are committed to engaging communities on health-care priorities, challenges and potential solutions. The Citizens’ Advisory Panel is a great example of how members of the public can participate in a process that will help transform the health system for the better.”

Dr. Robert Cushman, CEO of the Champlain LHIN

“As a resident of Eastern Counties I know how important it is that we hear about real-life experiences with the health care system. That’s how we can learn what’s working and what needs improvement. We don’t expect panel members to become overnight ‘experts’ in health care, but rather to share with us their perspectives, stories, and advice.”

Mary Johnson, chair of the Eastern Counties Hospital Clinical Services Distribution Plan Steering Committee and resident of Eastern Counties

QUICK FACTS

- The Champlain LHIN’s mandate is to plan, coordinate and fund health services for the Champlain region.
- Eastern Counties is home to 190,583 people, one-sixth of Champlain’s total population.
- In early February, 2010, 24 citizens were selected to serve on the Citizens’ Advisory Panel. The panel will meet for three Saturdays in February and March, 2010.
- Panel members will learn about the services currently offered in Eastern Counties and will provide advice on how to ensure the system provides quality care and makes the best use of public funds - now and in the future.

1900 City Park Drive, Suite 204
Ottawa, ON K1J 1A3
Tel: 613 747-6784 • Fax: 613 747-6519
Toll Free: 1 866 902-5446
www.champlainlhin.on.ca

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Visit www.champlainlhin.on.ca, and click on



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For more information, please contact:

Carole Ouellette
Communications Officer, Champlain LHIN
Carole.Ouellette@lhins.on.ca
Tel: 613.747.3238