

## North East LHIN Board Highlights

*Meeting of September 6, 2017*

As part of the North East Local Health Integration Network's (NE LHIN) focus on putting patients first, each Board meeting now starts with a patient story.

"Our Senior Management Team has started opening their weekly meetings with a story as a way for our organization to learn more about the current health care system's challenges at a personal level and how we can improve the patient experience," said Chair Ron Farrell. "As Board members and local health care decision makers, it's important that we keep the patient at the center of all that we do."

VP of Home and Community Care, Richard Joly and VP of Clinical, Dr. Paul, Preston brought forward one patient's experience with the Medical Assistance in Dying (MAID) and suggestions the family has made to improve the experience such as bringing in social workers during the mandatory 10-day waiting period.

Interim CEO Kate Fyfe reported on the progress made on many files as well as events occurring over the summer months including:

- **The community of Nibinamik was evacuated to Kapuskasing** in early August due to a forest fire risk. North East LHIN staff assisted the community in establishing a community plan to support evacuees. Enhanced services included an interim primary care clinic, community services, and mental health supports.
- **Sub-region planning moving ahead:** Staff have completed an analysis of existing North East LHIN-led committees throughout the region to leverage these health and social system tables. In some communities, new or "refreshed" health and social service tables have been formed.
- **Patient and Family Advisory Council:** After putting out the call for members, the North East LHIN received 73 high calibre applications. The aim is to have a final membership of around 15 individuals that represent our vast geographic, demographic reality and cultural diversity by the end of October.

During the meeting, the North East LHIN Board examined several capital and pre-capital submissions resolving that the following be submitted to the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care for approval.

- **CT scanner proposals for:** West Nipissing General Hospital, North Bay Regional Health Centre, Kirkland and District Hospital, Weeneebayko Area Health Authority, St. Joseph's General Hospital (Elliot Lake); and Health Sciences North. The North East LHIN supports additional CT scanners to improve access for clinical decision making, reduce wait times

for patients, and improve health equity across the region by targeting investments to reduce avoidable health disparities between population groups. There is a strong business case to support relatively low volume CT operation in remote rural hospitals when considering the cost to transport patients and the funds patients are being reimbursed via the Northern Travel Grant. Additional CT scanners will also improve wait time access to this technology.

- **Timmins and District Hospital's Pre-Capital Submission (Part A) for an Emergency Department Renovation and Expansion.** The hospital's emergency department was built in 1993, at a time when short-term treatment to avoid admission was not part of the scope of services provided and the length of stay in the emergency was much shorter. The current available space (8,295 CGSF) is much less than the current hospital standards (proposed 21,495 CGSF).
- **The capital funding request submission for Service de santé Chapleau Health Services Community Health** to reconfigure and redevelop part of their existing facility to support the integration of community-based programs and their transformation into a Rural Health Hub. A Pre-Capital Submission – Part A (hospital project) for a component of the same project was previously endorsed by the NE LHIN. The Community Health Capital Funding Request is a scaled down version of the project submitted at the recommendation of the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care.
- **Maison McCulloch Hospice Stage 1 Application under the Ministry's Hospice Capital Program.** The expansion of its facility and community programs will ensure that palliative and end-of-life care is delivered in the location of the client's choice, with the ultimate goal of increased patient and family satisfaction. If approved by the Ministry, the hospice will receive 15% of its \$2 million capital ask which it can use to prepare a Stage 2 Business Case describing the full scope and cost of the project for the Ministry's review and approval.

The Board also reviewed the current status of the **Nipissing Serenity Hospice - Maison Sérénité du Nipissing (NSH)**, following the Board's support to NSH to further develop its model through 11 specific actions it outlined to NSH in November 2015. Following regular meetings over the past two years between NSH and NE LHIN staff to review NSH operational status and proposed model of care, the Board re-confirmed its interest in ensuring a sustainable model of hospice care in Nipissing with the community's best interests being served. The Board expressed concern with the progress made to date, notably with NSH's financial sustainability to construct and operate a hospice in the community.

NSH has been asked to deliver a Milestone Plan to address outstanding fundraising and risk mitigation items, which will be evaluated at the NE LHIN November Board of Directors meeting. Simultaneously, the NE LHIN will retain the services of a third party fundraising consultant to conduct an independent review of NSH's capital campaign and future sustainability.

Board Chair Ron Farrell noted that as part of the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care provincial plan of having 200 new hospice beds in the province of Ontario by 2018/19, the NE LHIN led the development of the innovative rural hospice suite co-location model throughout the NE LHIN region, two of which opened in Mattawa and Sturgeon Falls in 2016/17. The NE LHIN is committed to having six additional hospice care beds in North Bay to serve the Nipissing district by 2018/19. In this regard, the NE LHIN Board re-confirmed its commitment to continue

to work to ensure that approved hospice bed models are financially sustainable and do not create an undue fundraising burden on the communities and residents where they are located.

**Background:**

- The public is welcome to listen in or attend the North East LHIN's Board meetings. To obtain the teleconference number or find out the location of the next meeting (meetings are held in communities throughout the region) [click here](#):
- The North East LHIN Board includes: Denis Bérubé (Moonbeam), Ron Farrell, Chair (Sundridge), John Febraro (Sault Ste. Marie), Dawn Madahbee Leach (Aundeck Omni Kaning First Nation on Manitoulin Island), Toni Nanne-Little (Sault Ste. Marie), Mark Palumbo (Sudbury), Betty Stone (Temiskaming Shores), and Kim Morris (Sudbury). The board is striving to reach its full complement of 12 and encourages interested individuals to call the Board Liaison Office at 705-805-3330 for additional information.

For more information, contact North East LHIN Communications Officer Lara Bradley at [Lara.Bradley@lhins.on.ca](mailto:Lara.Bradley@lhins.on.ca) or 705-674-1492.