

## NE LHIN Supports Training for Timmins Partners’ Timely Response to Mental Health and Addiction Issues

*Community Mobilization Table demonstrates power of collaboration*

**December 28, 2016** – A cast of superheroes who don’t wear capes are at work each week helping people nearing crisis get quicker access to the care they need in Northeastern Ontario communities. Their superpower comes from collaboration between LHIN-funded health service providers and many other community organizations.

Police, hospital, Aboriginal providers, mental health agencies and more, make up a 13-agency team in Timmins that works together to provide faster care for Northerners with acutely elevated risk of harm to themselves or others.

Thanks to NE LHIN funding, the group recently received training to allow them to standardize their practices and further their community partner approach to helping people access quality care— quickly.

“Getting people the help they need, when they need it, is the absolute strength of this LHIN-supported effort,” says Louise Paquette, CEO, North East LHIN. “Mobilization Tables across Northeastern Ontario are great examples of how care providers are coming together to focus on the individual needs of Northerners.”

The Timmins Mobilization Table has helped more than 80 people since it began in April 2015. On a weekly basis, team members discuss specific client needs that can’t be addressed by one agency alone. Their collaborative efforts allow people in need to be quickly connected to services they otherwise wouldn’t receive. To date, the top four risk factors of people helped have been: addictions, mental health, poverty and people posing a possible threat to public health and safety.



*Mélanie Ciccone, NE LHIN Officer (left), with some of the multi-disciplinary superheroes of the Timmins Community Mobilization Table. (left to right); Melissa Turcotte, Program Coordinator, Timmins and District Victim Services; Angele Desormeau, Executive Director, South Cochrane Addictions Services; Emilene Dumoulin, Executive Director, Victim Services; and Willy Dumoulin, South Cochrane Addictions Services Outreach Team Lead.*

“Having all these people around the table who are specialists in different sectors has been helpful to addressing people's needs in a holistic way,” says Melissa Turcotte, Program Coordinator, Timmins and District Victim Services. She co-chairs the meetings with Willy Dumoulin, Team Lead, South Cochrane Addictions Services Outreach.

Similar mobilization efforts, supported by NE LHIN-funded agencies are in place to help Northerners living in Sudbury (Rapid Mobilization Table), Sault Ste. Marie, (Community Mobilization Table), North Bay (Community Mobilization Hub, also called Gateway Hub), and North Cochrane (Community Mobilization Table).

**FACTS:**

- **Members of the Timmins Community Mobilization Table include:**
  - Canadian Mental Health Association – Cochrane Timiskaming Branch
  - Jubilee Centre
  - Kuuwanimano Child and Family Services
  - Ministry of Safety and Correctional Services - Probation and Parole
  - Misiway Milopemahtesewin Community Health Centre
  - North Eastern Family and Children’s Services
  - Ontario Provincial Police
  - South Cochrane Addictions Services
  - Timmins and District Hospital
  - Timmins and District Victim Services
  - Timmins Family Counselling Centre
  - Timmins Native Friendship Centre
  - Timmins Police Service
- The **NE LHIN funds 44 mental health and addictions organizations**, with a total annual budget of about \$82 million. About \$60 million is for mental health support, and \$22 million is for addictions support.
- A new **NE LHIN Mental Health and Addictions Advisory Council** with 23 members is working on a plan to implement the recommendations of Dr. Brian Rush’s *Review of Addiction Services in Northeastern Ontario*, commissioned by the NE LHIN, as well as a mental health *Blueprint* undertaken by Health Sciences North and North Bay Regional Health Centre.

-30-

For more information, please contact Cynthia Stables, Communications Director with the NE LHIN, at [Cynthia.stables@lhins.on.ca](mailto:Cynthia.stables@lhins.on.ca), 705-840-1520.