

MEDIA RELEASE

North Algoma Health System Steering Committee recognized as Healthy Change Champions

December 4, 2017 - For the past several years, a diverse group of people from six communities have been working hard to make improvements to the health care system in North Algoma. For their work, the North Algoma Health System Steering Committee has been named a **Healthy Change Champion** by the North East Local Health Integration Network (NE LHIN).



North Algoma Health System Steering Committee co-chairs Darlene Trovarello (left) and Mary Anne Pearson.

“The North Algoma Steering Committee highlights the extraordinary work taking place across Northeastern Ontario to improve the patient experience,” said Kate Fyfe, Interim CEO of the NE LHIN.

“This group has pulled a wide range of partners together and focused on how people can more quickly and easily move through the health care system to get the care they need, as close to where they live as possible.”

The committee, which includes representatives from health service providers, municipalities, seniors’ group, women’s services, housing, Francophone and Indigenous Northerners, identified the health needs of people living in six communities: Dubreuilville, Hawk Junction, Michipicoten First Nation, Missanabie, Wawa, and White River.

Committee co-chairs Mary Anne Pearson and Darlene Trovarello say commitment and a spirit of cooperation are reasons why the committee has worked so well. “There is a community buy-in and everyone is committed to the process. I think that everybody at the table, especially the volunteers, deserve a big dose of recognition,” said Mary Anne.

The committee was formed in cooperation with Lady Dunn Health Centre in Wawa with funding provided by the NE LHIN. The group was tasked with implementing the [North East LHIN Rural Communities Framework for Achieving Improved Health System Coordination](#) over a two-year pilot project.

Following the framework, the committee identified needs in each community and resources that were already in place. They produced an [executive summary](#) with key findings from their work, as well as a [full report](#) and a [service inventory database](#).

“One of the things we found, is that often it isn’t so much a lack of services as it is lack of awareness of what is out there. In a lot of cases, things that were identified as being needed were already in place,” said Mary Anne.

As an example, Darlene cites the case of the North Algoma 211 service. “At the time, the program had been available for approximately two years but was not being utilized to its potential. Just getting the 211 information back out to the community really made a difference in people being able to access information on services.”

From the completed Current State Assessment, the North Algoma Health System Action Plan was created. The plan represents the needs of patients across the system and identifies what actions are being taken by each organization to address them.

With its mandate now fulfilled, the North Algoma Health System Steering Committee will sun set. However, a new North Algoma Health System Collaborative will be developed in its place to monitor and implement the work plan that has been developed.

For more information on the North East LHIN’s Healthy Change Champion Award, including the award’s criteria, past winners, and how to submit a nomination, please visit: <http://www.nelhin.on.ca/communityengagement/healthychangechampions.aspx>

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For more information: contact Michael Ward, North East LHIN Communications Officer, at 705-256-3002 or michael.ward@lhins.on.ca.

For a full list of committee members, please see the attached Backgrounder.

BACKGROUND

North Algoma Health System Steering Committee (NAHSSC) Members

The following individuals were members of the North Algoma Health System Steering Committee:

Angelo Bazzoni, Municipality of White River
Christianne Monico, North East Community Care Access Centre (NE LHIN)
Christine Creasey, Missanabie
Darlene Trovarello, Canadian Red Cross
Diane Lajambe, Canadian Red Cross
Emma Blanchet, Algoma Public Health
Jennifer McKenzie, Outreach Officer, NE LHIN
Jocelyne LeBreton, White River Health Committee
Kadean Ogilvie-Pinter, Lady Dunn Health Centre
Karen Clifford, White River Health Committee
Kelly Kabatay, Registered Nurse, Dilico Anishinabek Family Care (Thunder Bay)
Lena Andre, Michipicoten First Nation Community Health Representative
Lesley Gagnon, Missanabie Cree
Lisa Krug, Algoma District School Board
Lois Ross, Hawk Junction
Mary Anne Pearson, CDC – Seniors Solutions Council
Mary Lou Kobzick, Registered Nurse, Dilico Anishinabek Family Care (Thunder Bay)
Nancy Andre, Michipicoten First Nation
Paula Valois, CHADWIC Home
Renée Mellish, Lady Dunn Health Centre – Diabetes Education Program
Rochelle Parsons, North East Community Care Access Centre (NE LHIN)
Roxanne Perkins, Dilico Anishinabek Family Care (Thunder Bay)
Samantha Dunn, Registered Nurse, Algoma Public Health
Shelly B. Casey, Township of Dubreuilville
Silvana Dereski, Wawa Family Health Team
Suzanne Racette, North East Community Care Access Centre (NE LHIN)
Thelma J. Smitham
Tina Forsyth, White River Health Committee
Yvan Besner, Municipality of Wawa

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