

North East LHIN Receives Community Recognition Award from Sault Ste. Marie Police Service

March 8, 2017 – The North East Local Health Integration Network (NE LHIN) received a community award from Sault Ste. Marie Police Service at its 31st Annual Police Community Programs Night.

NE LHIN Senior Officers Jennifer Wallenius and Robin Joannis accepted the award from Chief Robert Keetch for the LHIN's work to strengthen mental health and crisis care in the city while improving access and coordination of services for residents living in marginalized areas within the community.

The NE LHIN funded a Health Needs Assessment done by the Superior Family Health Team which led to the development of a primary care clinic in the Gore Street Neighbourhood Resource Centre (NRC). Along with the District of Sault Ste. Marie Social Services Administration Board, the LHIN then provided funding for a coordinator. The LHIN worked with local health service providers such as Algoma Public Health to help support the offering of mental health services within the Neighbourhood Resource Centre and fund improvements to its counselling area.



SSM Police Service and the North East LHIN join forces to improve access and care for area residents living in marginalized areas. North East LHIN Senior Officers Jennifer Wallenius and Robin Joannis accept a community recognition award from Chief Robert Keetch at the 31st Annual Police Community Programs Night. Left to right: Robert Keetch, Chief of Police, Sault Ste. Marie Police Services; Jennifer Wallenius, Rehabilitative Care Lead, NE LHIN; Robin Joannis, Senior Hub Officer, Algoma, NE LHIN and Donna Hillsinger, Chair, Sault Ste. Marie Police Service Board.

The Neighbourhood Resource Centre now pulls together a number of initiatives and services and is increasingly becoming a place where residents turn for help. Police have seen a decrease in calls for property crime, social disorder, and violent crime in the area since the resource centre started.

The NE LHIN has also supported the strengthening of mobile crisis care for mental health calls in the city. Under this model, a crisis worker from the Sault Area Hospital is available on peak hours to accompany police officers. For mental health calls, this has resulted in 34% fewer apprehensions under the Mental Health Act and 13% fewer apprehensions for attempt/threat of suicide calls. Through this collaboration, more people are being connected to mental health services and officers have waited on average about 10 minutes less in hospital.

-30-

For more information:

Kathleen Bain, NE LHIN Communications Officer at kathleen.bain@lhins.on.ca or 705-840-2340.