

MEDIA RELEASE

NE LHIN Approves Patient-Focused Integrations

April 8, 2013 – Northerners are benefiting from three patient-focused integrations that were approved at the most recent meeting of the Board of Directors of the North East LHIN. Each demonstrates the LHIN's commitment to building a more people-focused system of care that ensures fewer gaps in services and better coordination.

“These voluntary integrations reflect the changes that Northerners have told us are needed to make care more centred on the needs of people and how they can access coordinated services closer to home,” said Louise Paquette, NE LHIN CEO.

Elaine Pitcher, Chair of the NE LHIN Board of Directors further emphasized that: “Based on feedback, ideas and solutions from people who both deliver and receive care, the NE LHIN Board continues to move forward with positive system changes, like service integrations.”

The NE LHIN Board of Directors approved the following voluntary integrations at its public meeting on March 28:

Integration of Thessalon and Matthews Memorial Hospitals to Blind River District Health Centre

This integration of hospital operations involves the transfer of programs and services currently delivered by Sault Area Hospital. The transfer of Thessalon and Matthews Memorial operations into the Blind River District Health Centre will help to focus decision-making and planning for the needs for rural health services by a small, rural hospital like Blind River District Health Centre (BRDHC). The NE LHIN held previous community engagements throughout the catchment area to introduce the concept of a Rural Health Model for the North Shore Algoma Area, which included this integration.

Integration of Multiple Providers of Mental Health/Addiction Providers to the Algoma Anchor Agency

This integration formalizes the Algoma Mental Health and Addictions Integrated Anchor Agency as one new organization of several LHIN-funded mental health and addictions programs and services. The agency was born out of extensive engagements. The goal is to streamline service to benefit consumers, clients and family members. The Anchor Agency will be located in Sault Ste. Marie, with a satellite office in both North and East Algoma. Voluntary integration requests were received from 11 providers: Algoma Family Services, Algoma Public Health, Anishnabie Naadmaagi Gamig Treatment Centre Breton House, Canadian Mental Health Association, Counselling Centre of East Algoma, Lady Dunn Health Centre, North Shore Community Support Services, Phoenix Rising Women's Centre, St. Joseph's General Hospital, Women in Crisis.

Integration between the Timiskaming Palliative Care Network and the Kirkland and District Hospital

This integration will increase service provision, sustainability and the continuum of care. The Timiskaming Palliative Care Network, funded by the NE LHIN, has been providing visiting hospice services to the Timiskaming District since 1989. It works closely with care providers and clients across the district to provide expertise and resources in palliative and end-of-life care. It has been located at the Kirkland and District Hospital for the past 20 years.

INTEGRATION FACTS:

- Since 2007, the NE LHIN has approved the voluntary integration of more than 20 health service providers.
- Integration/realignment is one of the pillars of the NE LHIN's recently released three-year strategic plan.
- Two NE LHIN early adopter *Health Links* in Temiskaming and Cochrane planning areas are examples of clinical alignments that are focused on people/patients with multiple conditions and seniors.
- The NE LHIN Board accepted reports in June 2012 calling for health care realignment in Temiskaming District and the Cochrane Hub, based on the outcomes of extensive community engagement and demographic realities.

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