

MEDIA RELEASE

Central West LHIN holds first meeting of the Shelburne Community Health Task Force

The Central West Local Health Integration Network (LHIN) hosted the first meeting of the Shelburne Community Health Task Force to consider ways to improve primary and community health care in the Shelburne area.

Led by Terry Miller, the Vice-chair of the Central West LHIN Board of Directors, the meeting was held at the Central Dufferin Recreation Centre on January 13. To ensure good community representation on the Task Force the LHIN invited three individuals from each of local community support services, the hospital, health care providers, and members of the public. Representatives from the Town of Shelburne and the County of Dufferin were also invited.

The meeting was attended by LHIN representatives including Joe McReynolds, Board Chair, Zygmund Novak, Board Member, and Mimi Lowi-Young, CEO of the Central West LHIN.

Community Services in Dufferin County were represented by Valerie Quarrie, Manager of Dufferin County Community Support Services, Brenda Urbanski, Administrator for Dufferin Oaks Home for Senior Citizens, and Thomas Manning, Chief Operating Officer of the Mel Lloyd Family Health Team.

Ed Crewson, Mayor of Shelburne, and Allen Taylor, Warden, Dufferin County represented the community's political leadership. Ken Topping from Shelburne attended as a member from the public. Other individuals representing these groups were invited and may attend future meetings.

Headwaters Health Care Centre was represented by Margot Hornseth, the Board Chair, Angella Hughes, a Board Member, and HHCC's CEO, Cholly Boland.

The Central West LHIN established the Shelburne Community Health Task Force to establish an implementation plan to improve community based health care and primary care services in Shelburne through the concept of creating the Health and Care Centre.

The Task Force will provide a written report to the Board of Directors of the Central West LHIN for their consideration. Their work will involve reviewing the LHIN's Health System Plan and Integrated Health Services Plan as well as local and provincial initiatives to improve linkages, partnerships and opportunities for integrating health services. They will meet with other health service providers in the area as part of their deliberations.

The Task Force will hold public meetings to ensure that the interested public has the opportunity to provide the Task Force with their ideas about community based and primary care services in this community.

The next meeting will be held February 8th to discuss health services in Shelburne through presentations from existing service providers. The Task Force will meet again on April 14 to review a report analyzing services and current and future needs. On May 5th a public meeting will be held to share the outline of a services plan incorporating the Health and Care model. A second public meeting will be held on June 2nd with the final meeting of the Task Force scheduled for June 9th.

“Health and Care Centres are a new model to improve community-based services based upon the specific needs of the local community and the identification of a set of core community based and primary care services,” said Mimi Lowi-Young.

Health and Care Centres will serve as one of primary gateways to the health system and focus on health promotion, disease prevention, healthcare treatment, and rehabilitation services, as appropriate. The Centres have the potential to co-locate healthcare professionals and integrate a broad range of services at a single location. They may use e-technology linkages to bring together health care professionals and could be managed by existing health service providers or could be offered by a new provider.

Joe McReynolds noted that “The Shelburne Community Health Task Force meetings are open to the public and meeting procedures follow the rules of the Central West LHIN board meetings.”

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