

WWLHIN*news*

WWLHIN BOARD HIGHLIGHTS –SEPTEMBER MEETING

GUELPH, ON – The Waterloo Wellington Local Health Integration Network (WWLHIN) Board of Directors met on Thursday, September 24, 2009. Following are highlights from that meeting.

Education Session

Rose Silvestro, Executive Director, Dunara, Wellington-Dufferin Homes, and Chris Jaroszko, a former client, presented a video titled “Dunara Helps”. Dunara, which is located in Guelph, is a psycho-social rehabilitation program designed to provide supports and services for adults who are experiencing chronic psychiatric problems. The organization has 17 longer-term beds and 2 respite beds for clients in addition to providing outreach programs. Jaroszko produced the video to educate local residents, health service providers and community partners about the programs and services offered by Dunara.

Board Effectiveness Report

Kathy Durst, Chair, WWLHIN, reviewed the Board Effectiveness Report that was completed as part of the province-wide review on Local Health Integration Networks (LHINs). The review and evaluation process of the 14 LHIN Boards was part of the Province’s and LHINs’ commitment to continuous governance improvement. A 360 degree review process was implemented last spring to gather feedback from Board members, and other stakeholders. She noted that overall the report was favourable and indicated that the WWLHIN Board of Directors implemented a number of best practices. The Governance Committee of the Board will review the report and develop a work plan to address the opportunities for improvement.

Emergency Department Wait Times

Dr. Aaron Smith, Emergency Department (ED) Lead and Lorna Macdonald, ED Performance Lead for the WWLHIN provided an update on initiatives being implemented to improve patient wait times in local hospital emergency departments.

The WWLHIN is the first LHIN in the province to have all of its hospitals participate in the Emergency Department Process Improvement Program (PIP). Hospitals participating in this project have a team of staff and doctors working collaboratively with process improvement experts with the goal to reduce patient wait times in the emergency department. A key element of the program is reviewing processes related to patient flow from arrival in the emergency department to admittance into the hospital or discharge into the community. The review has identified opportunities to streamline processes and implement new initiatives, which will enhance patient care.

Macdonald noted that the hospitals are starting to see tangible results through the reduction of wait times.

Cambridge Memorial Hospital – Hospital Improvement and Recovery Plan

Sandra Hanmer, CEO, WWLHIN, informed the Board of Directors that the provincially-appointed Supervisor at Cambridge Memorial Hospital (CMH), Murray Martin has indicated that he is currently reviewing the proposed Hospital Improvement and Recovery Plan. He has requested additional time to work with hospital staff and community partners to review the proposed plan prior to submitting it to the WWLHIN Board of Directors. Over the coming weeks, the WWLHIN staff will work collaboratively with Martin and the hospital to further develop a plan that will enable the continued delivery of high quality acute care in a sustainable community hospital.

QUICK FACTS

The Waterloo Wellington Local Health Integration Network is responsible for planning, integrating, coordinating and providing funding to 79 health service providers including hospitals, long-term care homes, community support services, community health centres, the Community Care Access Centre and community mental health and addictions agencies in Waterloo Region, Wellington County and South Grey. The WWLHIN operates an annual health care budget of close to \$858 million.

LEARN MORE

The full reports, briefing notes, and presentations related to the Board agenda items are posted to the WWLHIN website at www.wwlhin.on.ca, click on About Our LHIN / Board of Directors – Meeting Minutes / September 24.

-30-

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2009/2010:21