

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

KITCHENER, ON, December 15, 2014 – The Waterloo Wellington Local Health Integration Network's (WWLHIN) Board of Directors held their regular meeting on December 3, 2014. Below are highlights from the meeting. For the full agenda and briefing notes, please visit www.wwlhin.on.ca.

2015-16 Hospital Service Accountability Agreement (H-SAA)

The Hospital Service Accountability Agreement or H-SAA is a contract between the WWLHIN and each hospital as stipulated by the Local Health System Integration Act (LHSIA). This agreement sets the terms by which Hospitals will provide health services to residents using the funding allocation provided by the WWLHIN. Approximately \$600 million is allocated to hospitals in our region on an annual basis.

The current H-SAAs are set to expire March 31, 2015. The WWLHIN Board of Directors received an update from the Senior Manager, Performance and Accountability, Malden Samac on the work being done to have the 2015-16 H-SAA agreements in place as of April 1, 2015. There will be ongoing communication between the WWLHIN and hospitals as the H-SAAs are developed. The hospitals are expected to align their annual planning with the implementation of local health system priorities as outlined in the Integrated Health Service Plan and the Annual Business Plan.

Enhancing Care in the Community

The WWLHIN Board of Directors approved investments in community programs:

- Up to \$510,000 in annualized base funding and \$75,000 in one-time funding for the Region of Waterloo Sunnyside to support a new specialized dementia Adult Day Services program in the Kitchener/Waterloo area. Both investments will support the expansion of the existing adult day programs serving individuals living with dementia. Currently, there are more than 1550 older adults attending day programs in the Waterloo Wellington which offer their caregivers respite. These investments could have an impact on decreased hospitalizations and readmissions for conditions that can effectively be managed in the community. These investments will enhance the capacity of community services which will ensure more seamless and coordinated care.
- Up to \$160,000 for the Independent Living Centre Waterloo Region to fund four new assisted living units and up to \$70,000 for Guelph Independent Living to fund two new assisted living units. Assisted Living Programs allow residents with a permanent disability to remain living in the community and receive adequate support 24 hours a day. There is currently a need for more assisted living units. This funding will allow more residents to live in the community, with supports, rather than in hospitals or long-term care.

Proposed Transfer of Long-Term Care Beds

Elliot Fung, Senior Manager, Health System Integration, informed the WWLHIN Board of Directors about the proposed transfer of 9 long-term care bed licenses from Caessant Care Harriston and 7 long-term care bed licenses from Caessant Care Fergus to Caessant Care Cambridge Country Manor. Caessant Care's Long-Term Care Homes in Harriston and Fergus have struggled to achieve the 97% occupancy target over the past ten years. With empty beds not being utilized by residents of Waterloo Wellington, Caessant Care submitted a proposal to the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC) in spring of 2014. Public meetings were held in November to gather feedback from affected communities.

Next steps include the Minister's determination, analysis of information gathered by the MOHLTC and decision by the Minister. If approved, the WWLHIN will begin negotiating a new Long Term Care Service Agreement (L-SAA) with the homes. There are currently six Long-Term Care Homes operating in the rural Wellington area including the three Caessant Care Homes.

Next Board Meeting

The next WWLHIN Board meeting will be held on Thursday, January 29, 2015.

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