

Erie St. Clair
LOCAL HEALTH INTEGRATION NETWORK
RÉSEAU LOCAL D'INTÉGRATION DES SERVICES DE SANTÉ
d'Érié St-Clair

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Health Care Matters

Welcome to our first edition of *Health Care Matters*. This newsletter is our way to provide you with regular updates about our activities, and to ask for your input along the way.

Health care matters to the residents of Erie St. Clair. More than that, receiving quality health care close to home matters to all Ontarians. That is a cornerstone of a great health care system – of our system.

Please help us spread the word. Feel free to copy this newsletter and give it to anyone who may be interested. We would like to hear from you about how we can best meet your needs. We welcome your comments on this newsletter too. Please send your feedback to eriestclair@lhins.on.ca.

Health Care Matters

Our Community Engagement Framework

The Erie St. Clair LHIN has developed a proposed community engagement framework – Health Care Matters – that will be distributed in the next couple of weeks.

The framework outlines our commitment to working with all members of the community, and describes our goals and principles of community engagement, as well as a variety of approaches that we will use to involve people.

Health Care Matters is a living document that will improve over time as the community provides feedback and as our LHIN evolves and gains knowledge and expertise. We would appreciate hearing your comments.

There will also be many opportunities for broader community involvement. A series of roundtable meetings will be held in late April and early May to discuss health care priorities with the community.

Integrated Health Services Plan

The Erie St. Clair LHIN has begun the process of developing the first Integrated Health Service Plan (IHSP) for the populations of the municipality of Chatham-Kent, and the counties of Essex and Lambton. The plan, to be delivered to the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care in September 2006, will be the first public presentation of the LHIN's priorities and strategies for the three-year period starting in April 2007.

To support the development of the IHSP, we are establishing a steering committee of providers and citizens from across Erie St. Clair, as well as geographic teams in each of Essex County, Lambton County, and the Municipality of Chatham-Kent. These groups will be involved in developing the environmental scan that includes demographic information, health status, health needs and gaps in services, and the priorities for improving health in Erie St. Clair.

The initial IHSP will draw on the strength of the services currently provided in the region. By engaging our community, we will identify important issues and develop an understanding of the unique and complex relationships within the local health care system. As a cornerstone on which future LHIN plans will be built, the IHSP is expected to communicate key integration opportunities and local priorities.

Collaboration with the South West LHIN

We recognize that many residents of Erie St. Clair use services outside of our LHIN. The emphasis of the LHIN is on patient choice and ensuring that services are “boundaryless”. We value the partnerships and significant level of collaboration that exist among the ten counties of southwestern Ontario. The Erie St. Clair and South West LHINs are committed to working collaboratively to build on joint experiences in order to best serve the people of our region. Together we will work toward achieving consistency in how we work with local providers and our community.

The Erie St. Clair LHIN Board

Our Board is a nine-person, skills-based board. To date, five members of the Board have been appointed. All members are well-known and respected individuals in their communities.

Mina Grossman-Ianni (Chair)	Amherstburg
David Wright	Forest
Mary Kwong Lee	Chatham
Leland J. Martin	Petrolia
Michael Hurry	Sarnia

For more background information on the Erie St. Clair LHIN Board, please visit the website:

<http://www.lhins.on.ca/english/ErieStClair/ErieStClair.asp>

Presentations

If your group or organization is interested in having an Erie St. Clair LHIN representative speak at an upcoming meeting, please call us at 1-866-231-5446.

Mailing List

If you wish to be informed about our activities and opportunities to be involved in the community engagement process, please call our office or send us an e-mail at eriestclair@lhins.on.ca.

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