



## Northumberland County Integration Process Moves from Planning to Implementation Following Central East LHIN Board Feedback

*Discussion broadens to include more health service providers, collaborations, through new Northumberland Health System Transformation Council*

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Wednesday, March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2014, Northumberland County**—Since January 31, 2013, a group of seven Health Service Providers (HSPs) from Northumberland County have been meeting as part of a facilitated integration process at the direction of the Central East Local Health Integration Network (Central East LHIN).

After months of due diligence and stakeholder engagement, the Northumberland Integration Planning Team (IPT)—comprised of senior administrative representatives from each of the participating agencies—developed a proposed Integration Plan comprised of six recommendations related to how hospital and community-based health services could: improve client access to high-quality services; create readiness for future health system transformation; and, make the best use of the public’s investment.

Following approval from their respective boards, members of the Northumberland IPT presented the Plan to the Central East LHIN Board last Wednesday, February 26<sup>th</sup>. Based on motions made at the meeting, the organizations are now moving forward with the following integrations and related timelines:

- the continued development of a Rural Health Hub in Trent Hills;
- the development of a co-ordinated model to align Supportive Housing and Assisted Living for High Risk Seniors models in Northumberland County;
- the development of an integrated strategy for hospice/palliative care within Northumberland County, with a progress report on the initial phase to be submitted to the Central East LHIN by June 25<sup>th</sup>;
- an integrated strategy for Diabetes Education, Care and Management, pending satisfactory resolution to health human resources inquiries, with a report back on the results presented to the LHIN Board at their June meeting;
- the development of a strategic alliance between Northumberland Hills Hospital and the Port Hope Community Health Centre, with a progress report back to the Central East LHIN Board by June 25<sup>th</sup>;
- the advancement of integrated information technology capacity across Northumberland County, with a report back on current state assessment and opportunities for improvement submitted to the LHIN by June 25<sup>th</sup>

Also endorsed by the LHIN Board was the creation of a new **Northumberland Health System Transformation Council**, with a progress report—including a finalized Terms of Reference—due for submission to the Central East LHIN by June 25<sup>th</sup>. With the work of the initial Northumberland Integration Planning Team now moving to the implementation phase, the new Transformational Council will serve as the vehicle through which that work will press forward. The Council will also serve as the platform for additional Northumberland Health Service Providers to join in the conversation to improve the local patient/client experience and continuity of care while making the best use of the public’s health care investment.

Brad Hilker, President and CEO of Campbellford Memorial Hospital and first Chair of the new Transformational Council, said: “Many forms of collaboration are being explored in Northumberland. Through the Council we now have the ability to include other partners in the region at a common table,

such as area Family Health Teams, the Central East Community Care Access Centre and the leaders behind Northumberland PATH and the Regional Specialized Geriatric Services. The discussions our IPT have had in the past year have been very fruitful. We want to widen the scope of involvement and keep the momentum moving forward.”

Only one Northumberland IPT recommendation was deferred by the LHIN Board pending completion of additional due diligence by both parties. That recommendation related to the proposed transfer of accountability to deliver Supportive Housing services from Legion Village to VON. The results are expected to be reported back to the LHIN Board by June 25<sup>th</sup>.

## **LEARN MORE**

The seven organizations participating in the Northumberland County Community Health Services facilitated integration process were: Campbellford Memorial Hospital, Campbellford Memorial Multicare Lodge; Community Care Northumberland; Branch 133 Legion Village; Northumberland Hills Hospital; Port Hope Community Health Centre; and VON Canada – Ontario Branch.

For further details on Northumberland Integration Planning Team process, including the full Final Integration Plan, see the [Central East LHIN website](#).

## **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

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