

## LHIN ANNOUNCES PRIMARY HEALTH CARE TASK GROUP MEMBERSHIP

**NEWS**

April 28, 2010

CHATHAM-KENT – To focus on improvements in primary care across the region, the Erie St. Clair Local Health Integration Network (ESC LHIN) officially announces the membership of the Primary Health Care Task Group (PHCTG) - Steering Committee. The committee includes 14 community members and health care professionals from across Chatham-Kent, Sarnia/Lambton, and Windsor/Essex.

A total of 74 applications were received for the task group with selections done by a committee of ESC LHIN Board members. Selections for the committee were guided by a skills matrix to ensure its composition reflected the health care expertise and skill-set required to complete this important task. All three counties, which compose the ESC LHIN, are represented in the committee's membership. Additionally, the committee is balanced between rural and urban representation with a half rural and half urban mix amongst its members.

The diversity of this group will be beneficial in identifying and addressing solutions to primary health care challenges specific to the region. Additionally, selected members possess experience working with the unique populations in Erie St. Clair, including Aboriginal and Francophone peoples.

Task group membership includes:

Dr. Glenn Bartlett	Chair	S/L
Dr. Chris Thrasher	Vice Chair	W/E
Margaret (Meg) Connelly	Community	C-K
Anne Miskovsky	Community	W/E
Wendy Liebing	Community	W/E
Lynda Monik	Community Health Centre	W/E
Catherine Hedges	Emergency Medical Services	W/E
Heather Martin	Long-Term Care	S/L
Laura Liebrock	Mental Health	W/E
Willi Kirenko	Nurse Practitioner	C-K
Dr. Martin Lees	Physician	S/L
Kelly Farrugia	Registered Nurse	C-K
Diane Lozon	Social Worker	C-K
Sonya Vani	Physiotherapist	W/E

A date for the first committee meeting will be set for the coming month. Once underway, it is expected that the PHCTG - Steering Committee will lead a county-by-county review of the current state of primary health care in the region and submit prioritized recommendations to the ESC LHIN Board of Directors for improvements. The wealth of health care experience shared amongst members of this committee will be central to improving primary health care for the benefit of the local residents.

## QUOTES

“This is an important step forward for local health care. I am especially pleased that the new committee has about half rural and half urban members, with all three municipal areas represented.”

- Pat Hoy, MPP for Chatham-Kent-Essex

“We had an overwhelming response from exceptionally qualified applicants. It was very difficult to select the task group and ensure that it’s balanced in representing the communities we serve. I believe we accomplished that task and we still have an excellent pool of individuals that can be drawn upon for any additional sub committees.”

- Mina Grossman-Ianni, Chair, ESC LHIN

“We have high expectations that this group will be able to lead a process that will, in the end, give us a solid foundation to make improvements to primary health care in Erie St. Clair. I am confident that we have the right people at the table and look forward to seeing their results.”

- Gary Switzer, Chief Executive Officer, ESC LHIN

“While not underestimating either the scope or complexities of the issues we face I am confident that given the diversity, knowledge and skills around the table we will, working together, develop meaningful recommendations which will improve the delivery of primary care to all residents of the ESC LHIN”

- Dr. Glenn Bartlett, Chair, Primary Health Care Task Group

## LEARN MORE

Read more about the Erie St. Clair LHIN and the Primary Health Care Task at [www.eriestclairhin.on.ca](http://www.eriestclairhin.on.ca).

- 30 -