

Backgrounder/ Communiqué

PROVIDING BETTER CARE TO OUR SMALL COMMUNITIES

January 27, 2009

There are a number of other initiatives underway in the ESC LHIN, both independently and in collaboration with the provincial government through the Ministry of Health & Long-Term Care, to address the care needs of our communities.

Chatham-Kent Community Health Centre (CHC)

A Chatham-Kent CHC and Wallaceburg Satellite are planned for the area to address the significant primary care gap felt by the community. The new facilities will offer comprehensive primary care, chronic disease management and health promotion through a multi-disciplinary care team of physicians, nurse practitioners/nurses, and dietitians. It is expected that the new CHC will have a significant impact on the region, especially for marginalized populations that CHCs are designed to treat. The opening of the new CHC was targeted for April 2009, but a revised project schedule with a later opening is expected to be submitted in the near future.

Aging at Home

The ESC LHIN will receive over \$31M through the provincial Aging at Home initiative to support seniors in living healthy and independent lives in the community. In the first year of funding, which began in July 2008, the ESC LHIN invested \$3.8M into 24 new or expanded health care services.

Equity was a key objective in Year 1, which resulted in a number of program enhancements of transportation and meal delivery services. These investments were targeted at bridging the gaps in our rural communities and ensuring that transportation and the choice of hot or frozen meals were available throughout Erie. St. Clair.

Flex Beds & Transitional Care Beds

The Erie St. Clair LHIN has invested in up to 8 Flex Beds located at the Charlotte Eleanor Englehart Hospital (CEEH) site of Bluewater Health. The beds were put in place to address Alternate Level of Care (ALC) pressures in Lambton County, where accessing Long-Term Care beds for wait-listed hospital patients has been problematic. This new resource was accompanied by the addition of Transitional Care Beds in partnership with Twin Lakes Terrace, a local retirement and nursing home. Cumulatively, the new capacity has had a system-wide impact in improving the flow of patients from the Emergency Department into acute beds and back into the appropriate community resource for care.

...2



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Backgrounder/ Communiqué

.2

Pat Mailloux Eye Centre

The CEEH site of Bluewater Health received funding for the new Pat Mailloux Eye Centre. The centre offers state of the art technology and practices for cataracts and eye care. Additionally, the centre is a regional resource that enables patients to have their surgery and follow-up care close to home with limited travel.

Nurse Practitioner-Led Clinic

In October 2008, the provincial government announced the funding of a new Nurse Practitioner-led Clinic in the Erie St. Clair LHIN catchment area. A call for proposals was issued at that time and an announcement regarding the identified location is pending.

Nurse Practitioner-led Clinics are an innovative approach to serving patients. They offer a local team-based model consisting of nurse practitioners working collaboratively with other health care professionals, like family doctors, to provide quality care closer to home. Nurse practitioners are able to treat common illnesses and injuries; write certain prescriptions; and order certain lab tests, X-rays and other diagnostic tests.

Nurse Practitioner-led Clinics will focus on chronic disease management, health promotion and disease prevention.

- 30 -

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