

News Release / Pour publication immédiate

For Immediate Release

March 2, 2009

LHIN CONTINUES WITH STUDY OF SMALL EDs – Agreement is a positive step forward in developing solutions for emergency care in three regions

CHATHAM-KENT - The Erie St. Clair LHIN (ESC LHIN) confirmed that after reaching an agreement with Bluewater Health and the local physicians of Petrolia, the process of studying Emergency Department (ED) services will continue for Charlotte Eleanor Englehart Hospital (CEEH) of Bluewater Health, Leamington District Memorial Hospital and Sydenham Campus of Chatham-Kent Health Alliance (CKHA).

The agreement commits to the Emergency Department continuing as is while a five-year plan is developed with an end goal of designing the best model of care for CEEH.

The second phase of the ESC LHIN's study, which includes stakeholders and public consultations and additional data collection and review, will inform the ESC LHIN and its partners of options for moving forward with planning of emergency services at the three hospital sites. The June, 2009, timeline for completion of the study is still in effect.

The Hay Group Health Care Consulting report released in January, noted the unique circumstances of the EDs studied, with the recommendations reflecting these differences. The agreement forged for CEEH acknowledges their unique situation including considerations such as the long-term development of the new Bluewater Health hospital site which remains several years away from becoming fully operational.

The LHIN will continue to work in the spirit of collaboration in all three communities. Through the leadership and proactive approach of His Worship Randy Hope, this work has already begun in Chatham-Kent with the recently announced discussion workshop planned for April. The event will bring together the region's community leaders, the ESC LHIN and the CKHA to collaboratively develop a solution for the Sydenham Campus' Emergency Department as well as to address the community's future health care needs. The LHIN continues to work with Essex and Lambton Counties on developing similar events in their regions.

The ESC LHIN Board of Directors will receive final recommendations by the end of June 2009.

QUOTES

"An agreement to keep one ED open for five years does not minimize the fact that we still need to develop a plan to identify and implement the best model of care for that community," confirmed Mina Grossman-Ianni. "There remains work to be done at all three hospitals to address the short and long-term needs of their EDs and their community."

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“We will continue with our process and our commitment to develop solutions that are right for each of these communities” said Gary Switzer, Chief Executive Officer. “I am pleased that we came to an agreement for the Petrolia hospital, an agreement that meets each parties needs. In continuing with our study, we will work collaboratively with our community partners in Wallaceburg and Leamington to develop the best model of care for those communities.”

“Mayor Hope, Wallaceburg Councillor Sheldon Parsons, Warden Santos and the administration of both Chatham-Kent Health Alliance and Leamington District Memorial Hospital also deserve recognition for their commitment to work with us to develop long-term solutions for their respective EDs and communities,” added Switzer.

QUICK FACTS

- The Erie St. Clair LHIN commissioned the Hay Group to conduct a study of small Emergency Departments in August 2008
- The hospitals involved in the study include: Charlotte Eleanor Englehart Hospital Site, Bluewater Health (Petrolia); Leamington District Memorial Hospital; and, Sydenham Campus, Chatham-Kent Health Alliance (Wallaceburg)
- The Erie St. Clair LHIN, with a total population of approximately 649,000 people, is one of 14 LHINs across Ontario
- The Erie St. Clair LHIN is responsible for over \$900 million of health care services delivered in Chatham-Kent, Sarnia/Lambton and Windsor/Essex

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