



Leadership to Improve Health System for Frail Seniors Health care and community representatives working on shared plan

NEWS

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The goal of ensuring that frail seniors living in the Central East have access to a regional, integrated system of care is one step closer as local leaders are selected to form the inaugural Central East LHIN Regional Specialized Geriatric Services (RSGS) entity Governance Authority.

Two local seniors' representatives and a local geriatrician will be joined by leaders from area health service providers - including community support services, hospital and community care - as members of the new RSGS entity Governance Authority. Members representing primary care, such as a family physician and a community-based nurse practitioner, as well as a representative from long-term care are still to be recruited. We would like to acknowledge and thank those who responded to the call for expression of interest for Governance Authority membership.

Glenna Raymond, President and CEO of Ontario Shores Centre for Mental Health Sciences (Ontario Shores), a teaching hospital that specializes in care for people with serious and complex mental illness, is the first Chair of the RSGS entity's Governance Authority. Together the membership of the Governance Authority represents all three Central East LHIN clusters – Scarborough, Durham and the North East.

The creation of the Governance Authority for the RSGS entity is a significant milestone as the LHIN moves forward with creating a seamless regional system of care for frail elderly residents in the Central East.

[Members](#) of the Governance Authority will hold their first meeting this month and will be expected to report back to the LHIN Board later in the year with a strategic plan showing how specialized geriatric services will be better delivered through integrated partnerships across the system.

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The creation of the Governance Authority comes after the Central East LHIN Board of Directors approved a plan to implement a regional model for the organization, coordination and governance of specialized geriatric services that builds on investments already made in areas such as geriatric assessment, geriatric emergency management and hospital activation programs.

The entity will be responsible for ensuring better health outcomes for frail seniors across the Central East LHIN. As the host agency, Northumberland Hills Hospital has been leading the development of the RSGS entity since last fall.

QUOTES

“Ensuring that our local health service providers are working as a team to create a system of care for seniors, once again demonstrates the value of LHINs. Formally organizing and coordinating Specialized Geriatric Services across the LHIN is a significant step in the evolution of a seniors’ strategy in the Central East LHIN and I would like to thank the members of the inaugural Governance Authority for accepting this responsibility.”

- Wayne Gladstone, Chair, Central East LHIN Board of Directors

“Our aging population continues to grow and this Governance Authority is an important step in meeting the increased needs for highly specialized services for seniors in the Central East. We look forward to working collaboratively with our partners to develop a strong vision and innovative approach to care that is seamless, consistent and equitable.”

- Glenna Raymond, President and CEO, Ontario Shores and Chair, Central East LHIN RSGS entity Governance Authority

QUICK FACTS

- There will be a 19% increase in the number of seniors aged 65+ in the Central East LHIN by 2019, and a 47% increase in the number of seniors aged 85 and older. This growth will include 42,449 frail seniors with significant health care needs – an increase of 36%.
- 2,100 seniors in the Central East LHIN annually account for roughly one third of total hospital spending, or approximately \$395.2M

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- Specialized Geriatric Services (SGS) provide a range of services to support older individuals who are frail and includes specialized geriatric assessment, consultation, short-term treatment, rehabilitation, and short-term specialty case management. Psychogeriatrics, the branch of psychiatry concerned with the mental health of older people, is also considered a component of SGS within Central East.
- Specialized Geriatric Services are delivered in a variety of settings including home, ambulatory clinics, long-term care homes and in-patient hospital settings. SGS can significantly contribute to a frail senior's ability to remain in their home.

LEARN MORE

To learn more about the LHIN's approach to Specialized Geriatric Services, please click [here](#).

For more information:

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