



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

August 24, 2007

Central East LHIN approves 42 New Supportive Housing Spaces in Peterborough

The Central East LHIN Board of Directors recently approved funding for assisted living supports to 42 new supportive housing spaces in Peterborough, part of the St. Peter's and Marycrest redevelopments, which will be operational in 2008-09.

The projects, an innovation of the Peterborough Supportive Housing Network, will allow persons with physical disabilities and/or cognitive impairments to live independently in housing close to all amenities. Supporting individuals in their own homes will prevent hospitalization and placement in long-term care homes, which for some, due to the lack of accessible community options, has occurred prematurely. Extended hospital stays and residence in long-term care has proven to be more costly than supportive housing, and does not always reflect people's choice in where they want to live and age.

The Peterborough Supportive Housing Network is made up of a group of 16 health and social service providers in Peterborough and the surrounding area, who worked cooperatively to present this proposal to the Central East LHIN. Carol Gordon, CEO of Kawartha Participation Projects, a service provider to those in supportive housing, and a key contributor to the Peterborough Supportive Housing Network, is thrilled with the approval from the Central East LHIN board.

"The addition of 42 spaces in Peterborough will help to address the needs of applicants presently on our waiting list, some who have been waiting for 8 years," said Ms. Gordon. "Applicants will be provided a safe environment of quality care."

"If LHIN initiatives are to be successful, cooperation and shared responsibility throughout our healthcare community is required," said Foster Loucks, Chair of the Board of the Central East LHIN as he applauded the network's proposals. "This group of health service providers have come together to propose a solution to a need in the community."

In its first Integrated Health Service Plan, the Central East LHIN identified Seamless Care for Seniors as a leading priority and included in this priority was a commitment to look at supportive housing, community supports and long-term care needs of Central East LHIN residents. While this comprehensive study is forthcoming, the Peterborough proposals presented an immediate opportunity for the Central East LHIN to build much need supportive housing capacity.

"This approval further demonstrates the value that LHINs bring to health care planning in Ontario" stated James Meloche, Senior Director for Planning, Integration and Community Engagement. "While more work is underway to assess need across the LHIN, this opportunity builds on the collaborative efforts of local health service providers, local developers, municipal government and the Canada-Ontario Affordable Housing Program."

"I'm delighted that the Peterborough Supportive Housing Network is working with the Central East LHIN on this initiative," said Jeff Leal, MPP, Peterborough. "It is innovative and collaborative and helps local residents get the care they need that's appropriate, and will allow them to live with dignity and independence."

Two additional proposals, one in Lakefield and one in the City of Kawartha Lakes, were also considered by the CE LHIN Board and will be given direction once a full assessment and analysis of supportive housing needs in the Central East LHIN is completed.

The Central East LHIN, which recently released its first Integrated Health Service Plan, is one of 14 not-for-profit organizations, created by the provincial government to be responsible for planning, integrating and funding local health services - hospitals, long term care facilities, community care access centres, community health centres, community support services and mental health and addictions agencies.

For more information:
Katie Cronin-Wood
Communications Lead
1-866-804-5446 X218
katie.croninwood@lhins.on.ca

Karen O'Brien-Monaghan
Community Engagement Consultant
1-866-804-5446 X212
karen.obrienmonaghan@lhins.on.ca

*Engaged Communities.
Healthy Communities.*

