



LOCAL AGENCIES LOOK FOR BETTER WAY TO SERVE CLIENTS *Kawartha Lakes and Peterborough CMHA branches exploring options*

NEWS

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Local residents in the north east region of the Central East Local Health Integration Network (Central East LHIN) could soon have access to a stronger, more integrated, community-based mental health service as discussions get underway between the Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA) branches in Kawartha Lakes and Peterborough.

Representatives from the two CMHA branches first began meeting in early April to develop a shared vision for mental health services that builds on the many services currently provided by the two agencies, both separately and as partners, to the residents of the north east or Haliburton, Kawartha Lakes, Peterborough and Northumberland areas of the LHIN.

Now the plan is for the agencies, with the support of the LHIN, to develop an Integration Plan including a new service delivery model, which will provide local residents with greater access to more efficient, effective and co-ordinated services.

Local residents, mental health clients and their families and other health service providers will be asked to provide input into the plan as it is being developed, before it is presented to the boards of the two agencies and the Central East LHIN later this summer.

QUOTES

“Our agency is looking forward to working with our CMHA partners in Peterborough to develop a new service delivery model that maintains and expands services to residents in our shared service areas, including Lindsay,” said Molly McCrea, President, CMHA-Kawartha Lakes.

“Working with our CMHA partners in Kawartha Lakes to develop this plan offers some exciting opportunities to build an even stronger community-based mental health service that will benefit clients from across the north east region,” said Bob Helsing, President, CMHA-Peterborough.

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“The Central East LHIN, in our role as the local system integrator, is providing active support to these organizations as they look at options that will result in improvements to how mental health services are delivered,” said Central East LHIN Board Chair, Foster Loucks. “As demonstrated through recent integrations, we have shown that access to health care can be improved and efficiencies created that can see funding redirected to front-line services.”

QUICK FACTS

- CMHA-Peterborough and CMHA-Kawartha Lakes are branches of the Canadian Mental Health Association, a national organization that promotes the mental health of all Canadians and supports the resilience and recovery of people experiencing mental illness.
- The local agencies deliver a variety of services including early identification, crisis support, supportive housing, health promotion, self help/peer support, case management, family support/advocacy and court support/diversion/release from custody.
- Together the two agencies serve a geographical area that includes the Haliburton Highlands, Kawartha Lakes, Peterborough City and County and Northumberland-Havelock.

LEARN MORE

To learn more about the development of this Integration Plan and opportunities to provide feedback, please visit the Central East LHIN website and click on “Resource Documents/Integration” - see <http://www.centraleastlhin.on.ca/Page.aspx?id=96>.

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