

## **Chair's Report**

**April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2009**

### **Commending the Whitby Mental Health Corporation:**

Occasionally we should recognize the work of the health service providers in our region and the commitment they make to promoting system integration. Recently as we visited each Hospital Board of Directors to present the Clinical Services Plan, the Whitby Mental Health Centre provided me with a copy of their "Board Principles for System Integration" as well as an outline of their broad participation in integrated service planning.

Stated in terms of policy, their Board clearly recognizes that system integration is based on the building of individual and organizational relationships leading to new alliances and opportunities to strengthen existing services. Focused on improving services to the client, family, and community, management is directed to work with the spectrum of interested parties from the community to government to the LHIN to Health Service Providers and social services too.

Their stated commitment to system integration is matched by their actions in partnership with the Durham Regional Police and Durham Mental Health Services, their psycho geriatric Outreach, their Day Hospital program with the participation of Canadian Mental Health Association, a "virtual" adolescent emergency service with other Hospitals in the region, a homeless van initiative, and wide involvement of their medical leadership in integration activities. Many other initiatives are also cited in their outline.

I'm impressed and would offer our commendation to the Whitby Mental Health Corporation.

Of additional interest, they are very pleased with our support in finalizing the so-called 'labour harmonization' funding that was required to achieve a balanced budget in the year just ended (2008/2009) and for the next fiscal period.

### **Consistency Among LHINS:**

As the LHINS have developed and matured over the months, and years, concern and criticism in some quarters has centred on the need for greater consistency and coordination across the fourteen LHINs. In response, the Ministry recently organized a workshop in order to initiate a discussion that involved not only the LHINs but also participants from the Associations, hospital representatives, and senior leadership from the Ministry Of Health and Long Term Care. The province, obviously, needs to ensure that there is a reasonably standard set of services that all Ontarians can access. On the other hand, we

have a big province that provides opportunity for local variability in how services are delivered and what priorities are relevant in a given region, the role presumably of the LHIN.

As Chair I was invited to be a part of this dialogue. The outcomes from the meeting seem less than clear to me. Hopefully there will be a summary Report in due course which I will circulate to the Board.

**MLAAs Completed:**

As the LHIN assumes the responsibility for another sector of the local health system, we again successfully met the target timeline to complete and sign off on the Accountability Agreements for the approximately eighty agencies representing community services, mental health and addiction programs, and the CCAC. Congratulations to our staff for a huge effort and to the agency staff as well with whom we worked closely and effectively and, in the process, furthered the work of the LHIN by building supportive relationships.

**A Few Reminders:**

Please keep the Retreat in mind as move forward to May 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup>, this year in Cobourg, where we will revisit our strategic directions and priorities in readiness for the next iteration of the Integrated Health Service Plan to be completed by late Fall.

Secondly, plans are well under way for the annual CELHIN symposium which we will host again this year at UOIT/Durham College from May 13<sup>th</sup> to May 15<sup>th</sup>. Sessions particularly directed to governance in the LHIN will be featured on the 14<sup>th</sup>, so please plan to be a part of this important event where we have an opportunity to meet our colleagues in the field.

Finally, the annual Audit will be conducted early in May. And the Community Nominations Committee will be proceeding with a short listing interview process on May 1<sup>st</sup>.

Respectfully submitted,



Foster Loucks