

CHAIR'S REPORT

November 17, 2009

Board-to-Board Collaboratives:

In June 2008 the Central East LHIN Board of Directors initiated a new phase of its community engagement framework that focuses on creating a culture of cooperation at the governance level within the LHIN. Known as the Board-to-Board Engagement Strategy, we established three Board to Board Collaboratives – one in Scarborough, another in Durham, and the last in Haliburton, Kawartha, Northumberland, Peterborough (north east cluster) – that aim to foster the following:

- A culture of cooperation in which each health service provider understands the other's contribution to the overall health system and its performance
- A forum for joint strategic planning and the identification of integration opportunities and
- The sharing of best practices and tools to raise the bar of health care governance

Governance representatives from LHIN funded health care providers as well as their Foundations are encouraged to review the terms of reference and complete a membership agreement form if they would like to join the applicable collaborative. The next meetings of the Central East LHIN Board-to-Board Collaboratives, which will be an opportunity to update the membership on the 2010-2013 IHSP, are scheduled as follows:

- HKPR (Northeast Cluster) – November 30th (will be held in Peterborough) - 6:00pm – 8:30pm – a light dinner will be available.
- Durham – December 1st - 6:00pm – 8:30pm – a light dinner will be available.
- Scarborough – December 2nd - 6:00pm – 8:30pm – a light dinner will be available.

Please plan to attend if you can.

LHIN/Minister/Ministry Relationships:

Each time the government appoints a new Minister there is an opportunity to re-assess or re-affirm the nature of the relationship that we have both with her and with her Ministry. In some respects this is a matter of the style of communication and keeping lines clear. In other respects it is a matter of understanding the Minister's issues and strategies as her leadership emerges. The Chairs expect to meet with her perhaps as soon as later this week. The matter of outstanding appointments to various Boards will be raised with her. Some LHINs have been awaiting OIC appointments much longer than Central East.

The evolving relationship, of course, also involves the Ministry and its role as it affects the LHIN. Most recently, this arises in terms of a regional coordination model for the Ontario diabetes strategy. Apparently the Ministry intends to determine and appoint a coordinating Health service provider with direct accountability to the Ministry for performance. Naturally, we should be concerned if new and different accountability processes and relationships, beyond the current Accountability Agreements and the ALC/ER process of setting Provincial targets, are circumvented. Multiple accountability and reporting relationships will only serve to confuse roles and system performance. Although we would not have authority, if the model is implemented, would we still have the accountability for the designated HSP?

Board Work Plan:

The Board work plan is well underway with extensive activity this month in the area of the Board to Board Collaboratives, the Board Succession Planning and the revisitation of key policies and procedures such as the Delegation of Authority Policy.

Board Succession Planning

Board Recruitment:

An ad was placed in print media throughout the LHIN in English and French, inviting applications to fill vacancies which will arise when Board members fulfill their terms in the spring and early summer of 2010. Interested parties were invited to submit applications to the Public Appointments Secretariat no later than November 13th, 2009.

The Central East LHIN has provided the MOHLTC with a skills matrix, identifying skill sets of existing Board Members and those that may be needed, in the event of a vacancy. Once all of the applications are submitted, the Manager, Public Appointments Unit along with a representative from the Minister's Office will shortlist the applications against the requirements outlined in the skills matrix and forward to the LHIN. The Community Nominations Committee will then perform interviews and satisfy the requirements as outlined by the Public Appointments Secretariat and the LHIN Board.

Regarding the current vacancies on the Board of Directors, we are expecting appointments to be announced in the near future. Both Champlain and the Northwest LHINs recently had vacancies filled.

Orientation Process:

In anticipation of the introduction of new members to the Board of Directors, work is currently underway to update and clarify the Board Orientation Manual and the orientation process. In addition to the core foundational documents such as the By-Laws, the MLAA and the LHSIA, the Orientation manual will incorporate elements of the KPMG Guide to Good Governance, a recent output of the MOHLTC's Board Effectiveness Review. The Community Nominations Committee will be charged with reviewing these materials for appropriateness to the Central East LHIN.

KPMG to attend December Education Session:

Arrangements are nearly complete to have the architects of the Effectiveness Review and Board evaluation process from KPMG join us on December 1st for our Board education session. I have asked them to focus and lead a discussion not only with respect to the process used to develop the evaluation but also to assist us to understand our role and the distinction between strategy and operations which was highlighted in the Central East evaluation. Closely connected to this topic, of course, is the matter and policy related to delegation of authority as well as improved communication. I hope we can all be present for this session.

Respectfully submitted,



Foster Loucks, Chair