



Anishnawbe and Métis Health Advisory Circle for the CE LHIN

Presentation to CE LHIN Board of Directors

June 16, 2009

Engaged Communities.
Healthy Communities.

Backgrounder

- The *Local Health System Integration Act* (2006) stipulates that the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care establish a provincial First Nations / Aboriginal advisory body. The Act also states that the people of Ontario recognize the role of First Nations and Aboriginal people in the planning and delivery of health services in their community.
- At the regional level, the Act also mandates the LHINs to establish and engage a regional First Nations and Aboriginal health planning entity.
- The CE has undertaken engagement activities with the local First Nations, Métis and urban-based Aboriginal organizations to establish a regional health advisory circle.

Engaged Communities.
Healthy Communities.

Purpose and Goals of Community Engagement

- Through the establishment of the Mnobiimadzwin Advisory Circle (Advisory Circle) and our efforts to build a strong working relationship, that over time we can accomplish the following shared goals:
 - Aboriginal people will have increased involvement in planning;
 - Aboriginal people will have improved access to health services;
 - Services will be tailored to meet their health needs; and,
 - Services will be culturally-appropriate, supporting traditional healing in conjunction with other primary health services.

Engaged Communities.
Healthy Communities.

Anishnawbe, Inuit & Métis Peoples: Cultural Context

- First Nations, Inuit and Métis are distinct peoples as recognized under the *Constitution Act, 1982*.
- For the purposes of the Advisory Circle, the First Nations leaders and service providers have agreed that the term '**Anishnawbe**' will be used to reference the First Nations peoples throughout the region.
- Inuit peoples are also recognized as a separate group. (to be further defined)
- **Métis** are a distinct Aboriginal people with a unique history, culture and language. The Métis Nation is comprised of descendants of people born of relations between Indian women and European men.

Overview: Health Status of Anishnawbe, Inuit & Metis Peoples

- Anishnawbe, Inuit & Métis peoples view health through a holistic lens, encompassing the physical, mental, emotional, economic, environmental, spiritual, social and cultural aspects of life.
- The health status of Aboriginal people has been impacted from the effects of colonialism, systemic racism, the residential school system and loss of culture.
- Their health status is below that of the general population.
- They face a number of health issues and challenges such as:
 - Diabetes and related complications (heart disease, kidney disease)
 - Arthritis

Engaged Communities.
Healthy Communities.

Overview Health status (cont'd)

- Their life expectancy of First Nations is 7.5 years less than other Canadians.
- As the population ages, disabilities associated with chronic illnesses are going to be a major concern.
- Aboriginal people receive health services through a complex service delivery system that includes the federal, provincial and First Nations, Métis and Aboriginal community agencies.
- Barriers to receiving equitable health services include: jurisdictional and funding issues, lack of sensitivity to culturally appropriate services, and a lack of targeted programs that focus on their particular health needs.

Engaged Communities.
Healthy Communities.

Engagement Milestones: Our Progress

- In March, 2009 KPMG consultants were selected to assist the CE LHIN in establishing the Advisory Circle.
- Engagement activities have included correspondence, conference calls and meetings with community leaders and health service providers to seek their support for the process and to receive their input into the draft Advisory Circle draft Terms of Reference (TOR).
- The core participating members to date are:
 - Curve Lake First Nation
 - Hiawatha First Nation
 - Mississaugas of Scugog Island First Nation
 - Alderville First Nation
 - Oshawa Métis Council (represents Northumberland Métis Council)
 - Nijkiwendidaa Anishnaabekwewag Services
 - Nogojiwanong Friendship Centre
 - Lovesick Lake Native Women's Association

Engaged Communities.
Healthy Communities.

Engagement Milestones: Our Progress

- To date, all of the representatives indicated their desire to establish an inclusive advisory circle comprised of **Anishnawbe, Inuit, Métis and urban-based Aboriginal organizations.**
- Discussions will need to occur with the Inuit representatives.
- As discussions progressed, the representatives have identified 3 key points upon which they have reached consensus:
 1. The advisory circle members will be representing the **Anishnawbe, Inuit and Métis peoples.**
 2. Name for the Advisory Circle (“Mnobiimadzwin”)
 3. The Advisory members will be guided by the Sacred 7 Grandfathers Teachings: courage, respect, truth, love, humility, wisdom and honesty

Engaged Communities.
Healthy Communities.

Key Features of TOR

- The draft TOR outlines the role and responsibilities of the Advisory Circle members and the Sponsors.
- **The Advisory Circle members are volunteers.** The members represent all of the communities. A youth, elder, and traditional healer will be invited to become members.
- The goals of the Advisory Circle are to work in partnership with the CE LHIN to:
 - Review LHIN-wide priorities and objectives against local strengths and gaps in capacity as these relate to the First Nations, Metis, Inuit and urban-based Aboriginal people.
 - Identify issues and barriers to Aboriginal people receiving equitable access to health services across the region.
 - Develop a work plan that incorporates tangible plans to address specific health concerns and culturally relevant programming such as Chronic Kidney Disease Early Intervention and Outreach Program.

Engaged Communities.
Healthy Communities.

Role of the Board

- This health advisory circle will report to the CE LHIN Board. This unique relationship is based on the recognition and acknowledgment that of the governance circumstances of First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples.
- A CE LHIN Board will need to appoint a director who will serve as a “sponsor” to the Advisory Circle in partnership with local First Nation, Inuit and Métis senior leaders.
- The CE LHIN Board and local stakeholders will receive an Annual Report from the Circle to report on its activities and accomplishments.
- The CE LHIN Board will be required to officially sign the Terms of Reference in a ceremony with First Nation, Inuit and Metis leaders, thereby formalizing this relationship.

Mnobiimadzwin Advisory Circle Sponsors

- The Sponsors will be the champions of the Advisory Circle and share in the vision of its work.
- The Sponsors will form an executive committee comprised of a LHIN Board member, a First Nation Leader, a Métis leader, and a possibly a representative from the urban-based Aboriginal organizations.
- They will meet two or three times a year to provide strategic advice, to endorse the annual work plan, initially review the Annual report, and recommend evaluation/improvements where necessary.

Engaged Communities.
Healthy Communities.

Next Steps

- Reach an Agreement-in-Principle with all parties to the draft TOR including the name for the Advisory Circle.
- Representatives will seek agreement from each of their respective leaders and Boards.
- Set date for signing Ceremony
- Send invitation to: LHIN Board Members, Advisory Circle Members and Sponsors, local service providers and consumers.

Engaged Communities.
Healthy Communities.

Board Motion

The Central East LHIN Board supports the principles as laid out in the draft Terms of Reference for the Advisory Circle and encourages CE LHIN Staff, along with First Nation, Métis and Inuit representatives, to pursue final consensus necessary to the ultimate success of the Advisory Circle. Through the establishment of the Advisory Circle, the CE LHIN hopes to establish productive and respectful relationships with all Anishnawbe, Metis and Inuit peoples as guided by the Sacred Seven Grandfather's Teachings.