

MEDIA RELEASE

Central West LHIN holds first meeting of the  
Bolton and Area Community Health Work Group

The Central West Local Health Integration Network (LHIN) is responsible for the planning and funding of local health services in the communities of Brampton, Caledon, Dufferin County, Malton, Orangeville, Rexdale, Shelburne and Woodbridge.

The Central West LHIN has identified the development of community based care as an important direction for the local health care system. By developing a new model of care through the creation of Health and Care Centres, which would be a first point of contact for health care in the community, the LHIN hopes to improve the access and accessibility of local health care services. To this end the Central West LHIN hosted the first meeting of the Bolton and Area Community Health Work Group to consider ways to improve primary and community health care in the Bolton area.

Led by Joe McReynolds, Chair of the Central West LHIN Board of Directors, the meeting was held at the Albion Bolton Community Centre on January 25. To ensure good community representation, the LHIN invited individuals from local health care providers and members of the public to join the Work Group. Representatives from the Town of Caledon were also invited.

As well as the Chair of the Central West LHIN, Joe McReynolds, Mimi Lowi-Young, CEO of the LHIN, participated in the meeting. Anita Gittens, Board Member with the LHIN, was not available but will attend future meetings as a work group member.

Community and health care services in the Bolton area were well represented at the meeting, including participation by Barbara Bunton, a local physiotherapist, Christine Cooper, Executive Director of the Family Association for Mental Health Everywhere (F.A.M.E.), Michael Nahirny, Board member of Peace Ranch, Nadine Lulu, Clinical Director of Caledon Health Assessment and Therapy Team and Stan Shabason, Board member of Caledon Community Services. Cholly Bolland, President and CEO of Headwaters Health Care Centre, also attended.

Attending were local residents Lori Payne and Barry Watkins who were invited by the LHIN to join the group to reflect the perspectives and interests of the public. Councilor Annette Groves and Councilor Richard Whitehead were also both in attendance as representatives of the Caledon Town Council.

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The Work Group will provide a written report to the Board of Directors of the Central West LHIN. Its work will involve reviewing the LHIN's Health System Plan and Integrated Health Services Plan as well as local and provincial initiatives to improve linkages, partnerships and opportunities for integrating health services. They will meet with other health service providers in the area as part of their deliberations.

The Work Group will hold public meetings to ensure that the interested public has the opportunity to respond to the recommendations being developed by the Work Group.

The next meeting will be held February 17, at which presentations will be made by existing service providers about the services they offer in the Bolton area. The Work Group will meet again in April to review a report analyzing services and current and future needs. The Work Group will hold public meetings to ensure that the interested public has the opportunity to respond to the recommendations being developed by the Work Group. The final meeting of the Work Group is scheduled for June.

"Health and Care Centres are a new model to improve community-based services based upon the specific needs of the local residents and the identification of a set of core community based and primary care services," said Mimi Lowi-Young.

Joe McReynolds noted that "The Bolton and Area Community Health Work Group meetings are open to the public and meeting procedures follow the rules of the Central West LHIN board meetings."

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For more information:

Anika van Wyck, Communications and Community Engagement Consultant

Central West LHIN

905 455 1281 x204

[anika.vanwyck@lhins.on.ca](mailto:anika.vanwyck@lhins.on.ca)