

Executive Report

January 4, 2007

Report from the OHA

Request for Participation on Small, Rural, and Northern Pandemic Working Group

The Ontario Hospital Association (OHA) is in the process of developing a working group of hospital staff from small, rural, and northern hospitals for the purpose of developing a Pandemic Planning Toolkit. The Toolkit will be built upon the work completed in the Ontario Health Plan for an Influenza Pandemic (OHPIP), and consider tools and templates to assist hospitals in furthering their pandemic planning activities. The OHA is looking for 10 to 12 individuals to assist in the development of the Pandemic Toolkit. Individuals interested in participating in the working group are asked to express their interest to Karen Sequeira at ksequeira@oha.com or 416-205-1328 by January 9, 2007 in order to be considered.

Amendments to PHIPA Regulation Aim to Protect Privacy

On December 23, 2006, amendments to Regulation 329/04 under the *Personal Health Information Protection Act* (PHIPA) were published in the Ontario Gazette. A new section (6.1) has been added to the regulation, which would require the Smart Systems for Health Agency (SSHA) to put in place administrative, technical and physical safeguards, practices and procedures that have been reviewed by the Information and Privacy Commissioner. These measures are designed to protect the privacy and confidentiality of personal health information in compliance with PHIPA.

Additional amendments made to the regulation are technical in nature. To review the amendments, see the December 23 edition of the Ontario Gazette at www.gov.on.ca. For more information, please contact Melissa Radolli at 416.205.1322 or mradolli@oha.com

TCF Welcomes a New President and CEO

Cathy Fooks, one of Canada's top health policy researchers, has assumed the role of President and CEO of The Change Foundation (TCF). Ms. Fooks most recently served as Executive Director of the Health Council of Canada. She has served in senior policy and research positions at the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario, the Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences and the Government of Ontario, including the Premier's Council on Health, Well-Being and Social Justice. She has also presented and been published widely on a variety of health policy issues over the past fifteen years. "The Change Foundation is uniquely positioned to advance evidence-based change in Ontario's health system. I look forward to working with the Board and the Foundation's partners as we navigate our exciting future together," said Mrs. Fooks.

Health Systems Update 2005-2006 13th Ed.

The Health System Update (HSU) 13th edition is now available. Prepared by TCF and the Canadian College of Health Service Executives, the HSU synthesizes up-to-date information about health system developments and/or new initiatives across Canada in 2005/2006. In addition, a section on "Key Issues in More Detail" compares trends in health-related initiatives across provinces and territories, and over time. The HSU is based on information submitted annually from national, provincial and territorial ministries of Health, Health and Social Services, and Health and Community Services.

The HSU report is available in print and in CD-ROM format, allowing readers to easily find key information and to drill down for more detailed information as required. The HSU is designed to keep health care managers and policy-makers up-to-date and to support health care planning and decision-making. For more details, or to order your copy or additional copies please go on-line to www.cchse.org

Report on Health Care

Kidney Disease Portal to Help Patients Monitor Symptoms

Patients with chronic kidney disease will soon have access to a high-tech tool aimed at helping them take an active role in their treatment. The online patient portal will be customized to meet the needs of 1,500 kidney patients served by Grand River Hospital (Kitchener) and the University Health Network (UHN) in Toronto.

The secure chronic kidney disease portal will allow users to self-monitor their symptoms and side-effects as well as access medication information and lab results. The portal will be aimed at kidney patients who are not yet on dialysis.

Research has shown that self-management, combined with early intervention of specialists and health care teams, can slow the progress of the disease in pre-dialysis patients. “That can help remove some of the burden on the patients as well as the health-care system,” said **Patrick Gaskin**, acting chief executive of Grand River.

The creation of the service was announced earlier this month, but it won't be available for patient use until March 2007. Grand River and UHN will initiate the program because both already have portal systems in place. Hamilton Health Sciences Centre will join the patient portal program in the future.

Ottawa Pair Invested into Order of Ontario

Two Ottawa residents received the Order of Ontario, the province's top honour, on December 20, 2006 for their contributions to provincial health care. **Leon Katz** was recognized for helping to conduct Canada's first open-heart surgery and **Gisele Lalonde** was honoured as an advocate for Francophone services and education.

Mr. Katz, 82, helped conduct the nation's first open-heart surgery in 1957, and has since participated in hundreds of cardiac

operations. Originally trained as an electronics engineer at McGill University, he has invented a number of life-saving medical devices throughout his career, including an adaptation of a strawberry jam pump that became Canada's first heart pump.

For her contribution, Ms. Lalonde, 72, led the fight in 2002 to preserve Montfort Hospital, Ottawa's only French-language hospital. The former teacher, administrator and mayor of Vanier advocated for French-

language rights throughout her career. During the investiture ceremony, the **Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, The Honourable James Bartleman**, recalled Ms. Lalonde's campaign to save Montfort Hospital. “Through her tireless efforts, she was able to rally Franco-Ontarians across the province in an effort to save the only hospital dedicated to serving French-speaking patients in Ontario,” he said.

The founding director and first chairperson of the Francophone Association of Municipalities of Ontario, Ms. Lalonde has also served as a leader within a number of professional associations and organizations, including the Canadian Education Association, Canadian French-Language Education Association and the Montfort Hospital Foundation Health Board of Trustees.

The Order of Ontario is the most prestigious official honour in the province. The award recognizes the highest level of individual excellence and achievement in any field.



Executive Announcements

Dr. Bill Evans, President of the Juravinski Cancer Centre and Regional Vice President of Cancer Care Ontario has been appointed President of the Canadian Association of Medical Oncologists.

The Chair of the Trillium Health Centre Board of Directors, **Catharine Shipp Wells**,

is proud to announce the appointment of the new President and Chief Executive Officer, **Janet M. Davidson**, O.C., BScN, MHSA effective March 12, 2007.

Ms. Davidson brings over 30 years of health care experience to one of Canada's largest tertiary care community hospitals, and is an

exceptional and accomplished leader both as a health sector executive and as a volunteer in Canada and internationally.

Report on Government

Province Helps William Osler Health Centre with Transition to Brampton Civic Site

On December 22, 2006, Health and Long-Term Care Minister **George Smitherman** announced that the government of Ontario is investing \$34 million to help the William Osler Health Centre finish building its new 608-bed Brampton Civic Hospital site.

The funding announced by the government includes:

- \$24 million in capital funding for the William Osler Health Centre to provide equipment and related accommodation, such as electrical fixtures and building structures, for the new Brampton Civic Hospital.
- \$10 million in operational funding to assist the hospital with the transition to the new hospital site. This includes the development of emergency evacuation plans for the new building and operational policies and procedures for the layout of the building, as well as recruiting and training health care professionals who will assist the hospital in meeting the needed service expansions, building orientation and fire safety training for the new building.

In October, the government provided \$18.9 million in capital funding for major equipment and related costs for the new hospital.

The minister also announced the appointment of **Ken White**, President and CEO of Trillium Health Centre, as an investigator under the *Public Hospitals Act* to lead a team of experts to work with the William Osler Health Centre and the community to ensure a smooth transition. The new hospital, which will add 302 new beds, will provide high quality health care to the community's growing population and accommodate 90,000 visits each year to its emergency room. The Brampton Civic Hospital is expected to open in fall 2007.

Minister Clement Appoints Two New Members to the CIHR Governing Council

The **Honourable Tony Clement**, Canada's Minister of Health, recently announced the appointments of **Dr. James Brien** and **Dr. Arthur Thomas Porter** to the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) Governing Council for three-year terms.

Dr. Brien is a Professor of Pharmacology and Toxicology, as well as Director of Research within the Faculty of Health Science at Queen's University. His research program in Pharmacology and Toxicology focuses on Fetal Alcohol Syndrome, with emphasis on related brain injury and the discovery of innovative treatment strategies. Dr. Brien has worked closely with the CIHR and will continue to play a vital role as a newly appointed member of the Governing Council.

Dr. Porter is the Director-General and CEO of McGill University Health Centre. He has held many prestigious positions in his career, including Chief of the Department of Radiation Oncology at the London Regional Cancer Centre and Chairman of the Department of Oncology at Victoria Hospital Corporation in London, Ontario, where he specialized in treating prostate cancer. As President and CEO of the Detroit Medical Centre in 2000, Dr. Porter led the organization in new directions and helped to attract new doctors to the Centre.

The CIHR is the Government of Canada's agency for health research. Its mission is to create new scientific knowledge and to catalyze its translation into improved health, more effective health services and products, and a strengthened Canadian health care system. Composed of 13 Institutes, CIHR provides leadership and support to nearly 10,000 health researchers and trainees across Canada.

OHA Conferences

Exploring Ontario's e-Health Readiness

January 18, 2007

Renaissance Toronto Downtown

E-Health is evolving into an integral part of the continuum of care, linking practitioners, enhancing safety and improving health care planning. How close are Ontario's hospitals to implementing an e-Health plan? The OHA's 2006 e-Health Readiness Survey reports on hospitals' ability to electronically collect, use and share health information. This one-day conference will explore the results of this year's survey, provide participants with tools to understand and use the data, and provide an opportunity for participants to work with colleagues on practical applications and future planning. For further information, contact Shannon Byck Munday at sbyckmunday@oha.com or 416-205-1357.

Patient Safety: Teamwork & Communication

January 30-31, 2007

Holiday Inn on King, Toronto, ON

Recognizing that communication and teamwork are key to strengthening our patient safety practices, the OHA is pleased to offer a pre-conference workshop and conference on the importance of teamwork and communication. Attendance for the pre-conference workshop is limited to 40 delegates. Early registration is recommended. Conference details include:

January 30, 2007 - Pre-conference Workshop

Safety-Critical Communication Skills

Using a trigger video, the workshop will explore the nature of communication and put safety-critical communication tools in practice using health care examples. Such tools include Situation-

Background-Assessment-Recommendation (SBAR - a briefing/handover tool), Graded Assertiveness, Names and Numbers (using a controlled and specific vocabulary rather than indefinite terms) and Transparency (thinking out loud).

Session limited to 40 participants.

January 31, 2007 - Conference

Teamwork & Communication

Patient safety has always been a top priority for Ontario hospitals, and it continues to be a critical issue in today's health care landscape. The conference will address:

- The nature and structure of teams;
- Teamwork tools;
- Team requirements / organized performance;
- The importance of assertive communication; and
- The use of SBAR

For further information, contact Shannon Byck Munday at sbyckmunday@oha.com or 416-205-1357.

Emergency Exercise Design

February 19-21, 2007

Ontario Hospital Association

This program will provide the participant with insight into the requirements of conducting emergency exercises in their workplace. Various types of exercises will be explored, including case studies, tabletop and full-scale exercises. The strengths and weakness of each type of exercise will be explored, as well as the requirements for their design and staging.

For further information, contact Marisa Bavaro at mbavaro@oha.com or 416-205-1309.



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