

Executive Report

September 5, 2007

Report from the OHA

MOHLTC *Pandemic Planner* - August Edition Available!

The Emergency Management Unit (EMU) of the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC) has published the August edition of the *Pandemic Planner*. Published monthly, the newsletter provides information and updates on pandemic planning and related activities for health care professionals. The current and archived versions are available on the MOHLTC website at <http://www.health.gov.on.ca> under the EMU link. For further information, contact Karen Sequeira at ksequeira@oha.com or 416-205-1328.

Announcement of the Mental Health Commission of Canada's Board of Directors

The OHA was pleased to hear Prime Minister Stephen Harper's announcement last week on the final selection of the Board of Directors for the newly created Mental Health Commission of Canada (the Commission), an arms length agency established to help create an integrated mental health system that places people living with mental illness at its centre. In the 2007 Budget, Canada's government committed \$55 million over five years towards a mental health commission. There was one Ontario representative among the 11 non-government directors, David Goldbloom, Senior Medical Advisor at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH) in Toronto. For a full list of directors, visit the Commission's website at www.mentalhealthcommission.ca. The creation of the Commission was a key recommendation of a Standing Senate Committee report on mental health, mental illness and addiction in Canada. It is the cornerstone of the Government's strategy to address mental health issues in Canada.

The OHA Mental Health and Addictions Provincial Leadership Council had long advocated for a national focus on mental health and will look to establishing linkages with the Commission through the Ontario-based directors. For more information on the Mental Health and Addictions Provincial Leadership Council, contact Michelle Caplan at mcaplan@oha.com or 416-205-1391.

OHA HealthAchieve2007

Register Early and Save

OHA HealthAchieve2007 will take place on November 5, 6, and 7, 2007 at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre. By booking before **Friday, September 14, 2007**, delegates can take advantage of the early registration discount and save \$100. Register online at www.ohahealthachieve.com.

Book Hotel Accommodations for OHA HealthAchieve2007

Book your accommodations for OHA HealthAchieve early to ensure your choice of hotel during your stay in Toronto! When making hotel reservations, please identify yourself as a delegate attending OHA HealthAchieve2007 in order to qualify for the special hotel rates. For further information regarding registration and hotel accommodations, contact healthachieve@oha.com or 416-205-1361 or 416-205-1362.

Call for Nominations: Communicator of the Year Award

The Ontario Hospital Association (OHA) is pleased to request nominations for the seventh annual *Communicator of the Year Award*. The award recognizes outstanding contributions to hospital or provincial health communication initiatives. Selection criteria are based on service, innovation, leadership and excellence. The award will be presented at the OHA's Community Affairs and Communications Network (CACN) Session at OHA HealthAchieve2007 on November 5, 2007. Included in this week's OHA Executive Update e-mail is a nomination form, with a deadline of **October 12, 2007** for all submissions. For more information or copies of the nomination form, contact Pam Springer at pspringer@oha.com or 416-205-1345.

Report on Health Care

New Diagnostic Equipment for CKHA Will Help Reduce Wait Times

Chatham-Kent residents will receive faster treatment and enjoy improved patient care with the installation of a Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) scanner. The announced MRI at the Chatham-Kent Health Alliance (CKHA) will add an additional 3,100 plus exams for the hospital.

Magnetic Resonance (MR) is now considered the standard of care in many areas of medicine including stroke, heart disease, abdominal imaging diseases of the breast and in the musculoskeletal system such as non-invasive diagnosis of bone and joint disorders.

CKHA plans to operate the scanner 40 hours per week in the first year and expand to 50 hours per week in years two and three, as the demand for service grows.

Building Team Selected to Expand and Redevelop Bluewater Health

Construction on the Bluewater Health project is on track to begin this September 2007. Bluewater Health signed a contract to build and finance the expansion and renovation of the Norman Site. With the addition of 325,000 square feet of new space, Bluewater Health will provide for a larger, more modern facility to house an expanded emergency department and a consolidated maternal infant child program which will, for the first time, offer labour, birthing and paediatric services on one floor. The project will also provide space for additional acute care beds.

Infrastructure Ontario will work with Bluewater Health to redevelop the hospital. This project is guided by principles outlined in the Province's *Building a Better Tomorrow* framework, which ensures public ownership of core assets such as hospitals, schools, and water and wastewater facilities.

Queensway-Carleton Early Works Project Makes Progress for Cancer Patients

Queensway Carleton Hospital CEO, Tom Schonberg, hospital staff and local officials recently marked the completion of the structural steel phase of the hospital's early works project. The project will provide cancer patients access to new facilities sooner because of this early, but important phase of the project.

Site preparation work at the Queensway Carleton Hospital began in June 2007 to make way for the new satellite cancer centre. The satellite site is part of the capital project to expand The Ottawa Hospital Cancer Program. The four-storey building will house three radiation treatment machines, two clinics and will have a capacity for 33 chemotherapy spaces.

The broader capital project to redevelop and expand The Ottawa Hospital Cancer Program will also include the renovation and expansion of the existing cancer centre at The Ottawa Hospital's General Campus. The goal of this integrated cancer program is to bring together programs in systemic therapy (chemotherapy), radiation therapy, preventative oncology, palliative medicine and supportive care. The program will serve a total population of 1.5 million in Ottawa and Eastern Ontario. Construction on the main project is expected to begin in late 2007/early 2008.

First Ethnographic Study in Canada Aimed at Understanding Ontario's FHTs

The C.T. Lamont Centre, Élisabeth Bruyère Research Institute, is conducting a novel study of how physicians and other health care providers collaborate to deliver care within Ontario's Family Health Team (FHT) strategy.

FHTs bring together physicians, nurse practitioners and other health professionals such as dietitians and social workers, to provide comprehensive and co-ordinated patient care. FHTs are well suited to deal with the challenges of chronic disease management in an aging population.

Recently piloted at the Bruyère Academic FHT, the \$283,941 project, *Behind the Closed Door*, is funded by the MOHLTC, and will look at six other FHTs. The researchers will study the activities and routines that comprise a typical day through observation of patient encounters, team interactions and in-depth interviews with practitioners and patients attending the FHT. This research will provide a window into the challenges faced by clinicians who, for the first time, will have to work side-by-side in this new model of care. The study will address how both patients and physicians are influenced in this unique health care environment.

Report from Queen's Park

Provincial Plan Improves Care for Ventilator-Dependent Patients

The Toronto Central Local Health Integration Network (TC LHIN) recently launched a provincial Long-Term Ventilation Strategy to improve care for ventilator-dependent patients and free up intensive care beds. The \$5 million program is part of the government's four-year, \$90 million Critical Care Strategy to reduce wait times and improve access to critical care across the province. Through this strategy, up to 2,000 more critically-ill patients a year will have access to ICU beds.

This is the first time a LHIN has been asked to take a lead role in planning and implementing a provincial program. The TC LHIN will build on the work completed by the Chronic Ventilation Strategy Task Force, which was established to review current services and recommend improvements. The Long-Term Ventilation Strategy will bring stakeholders together to develop an integrated service delivery plan. The plan will include enhanced out-patient services, improved home care supports, a provincial system for transferring patients from ICUs to more appropriate care settings and training to improve the quality of patient care.

Historic Agreement Paves Way For Weeneebayko Area Health Authority

A tri-party agreement recently signed by the province, federal government and local leaders will help improve the health of the James Bay Aboriginal communities by paving the way for the Weeneebayko Area Health Authority (WAHA). WAHA will serve the 11,000 residents of the James Bay coastal area to ensure they can access the best possible care, closer to home.

The government is supporting the merger of the federal Weeneebayko General Hospital and the provincial James Bay General Hospital. WAHA will integrate provincially-funded health programs such as acute care emergency, dialysis, diabetes, community mental health and physician services with federally funded First Nation health programs such as primary care and community health services. Since August 2005, the MOHLTC has been in tri-party negotiations with the Steering Committee's negotiation team and Health Canada to develop a legal agreement. This new agreement supports a

framework for the establishment of a single health care organization for the James Bay coast area.

ConnexOntario Health Services Information "eServices" Unveiled

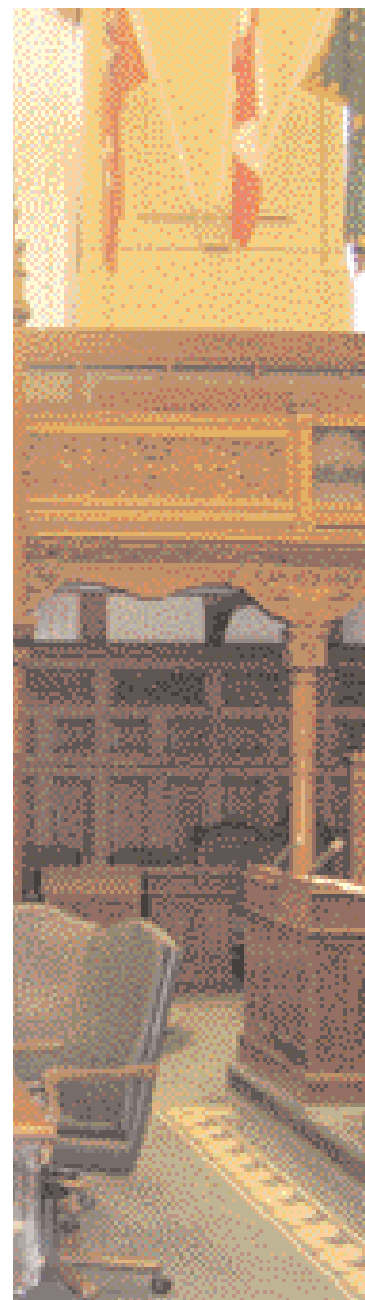
The MOHLTC and the 14 LHINs across the province now have instant access to detailed information from the databases at ConnexOntario, including service maps and program availability information, thanks to the launching of the new "eServices" web based application.

eServices allows its users to access a wide array of online reports and monitor in "real-time," program availability in critical sectors of the addictions and mental health service network in Ontario. The application will improve timely access to services and will assist with the continued development of partnerships between sectors such as the criminal justice system and the mental health treatment and support system.

HRRH's New Downsview Site to Consolidate Acute Care Services

The government's latest acute care replacement hospital project for Toronto will be constructed on Ontario government lands at Keele Street and Wilson Avenue. Infrastructure Ontario will lease approximately 30 acres of land to the Humber River Regional Hospital (HRRH) to enable the construction of a new, state-of-the-art complex.

The new health care complex will consolidate and enhance acute care services currently offered by the hospital from three smaller outdated sites. It will offer a comprehensive range of in-patient services including expanded emergency services, leading-edge diagnostic services and modern infectious disease containment systems. The government is also supporting the redevelopment of one of the hospital's sites for ambulatory care services to provide a wide range of out-patient services to the community. Construction of the new hospital is expected to begin in 2010. The HRRH project is part of *ReNew Ontario* - the government's five-year, \$30-billion-plus infrastructure investment plan.



OHA Conferences

Annual OHA/OHIMA Health Information Management Conference September 12, 2007 InterContinental Toronto Centre, Toronto

The OHA, in conjunction with the Ontario Health Information Management Association, will present the annual conference for health information management professionals. This year's program will focus on a number of key issues, including: the future role of health information management professionals; leading change and living to tell about it; standards: where are we now and what is ahead; innovative approaches to facilitate decision-making; and continuity of care from a health information management perspective.

Participants will have the opportunity to network, listen to presentations and take part in dynamic question and answer periods. Peggy Grall, The Change Coach, will kick off the day with a keynote presentation, "Leading Change...and Living to Tell About it!" The day will close with a panel on continuity of care with perspectives from Community Care Access Centres, LHINs, hospitals and physicians.

For further information, contact Sara Simone at ssimone@oha.com or 416-205-1314.

Essentials Certificate in Health Care Governance September 14, 2007 Delta London Armouries Hotel, London

Hospital governance has become an increasingly important issue among the general public, the media, and patients alike. As part of its commitment to leading excellence in governance throughout the health care sector, the OHA is offering a one-day certificate program for new and prospective trustees. This program is designed to help delegates strengthen their leadership skills and orient them to the important role played by trustees of a hospital or health care organization. Topics covered throughout the day will focus on increasing delegates' understanding of health care governance, and the challenges and opportunities inherent in the complexities of hospital operations. The program will help delegates identify the questions they need to ask in their organizations to ensure they have the information needed to fulfill their role.

For further information, contact Josie Mazzola at jmazzola@oha.com or 416-205-1356.

Healthy Hospitals: Beyond Measurement, Towards Integration, Engagement and Action September 14, 2007 InterContinental Toronto Centre, Toronto

Maintaining a healthy and satisfied workforce is key to any organization's stability. In order to gauge the quality of employee work-life and organizational culture, it is important to carefully consider exactly what needs to be measured. Subsequently, how do employers make the most impact once these measures are obtained? Join us for a day that focuses on tools, resources and networking opportunities to help determine what an organization should be measuring and how this can be accomplished.

In addition, the OHA is pleased to provide participants with the opportunity to hear success stories from hospitals who have utilized the Healthy Hospital Employee Survey (HHES) with OHA partner Brock Workplace Health Research Laboratory. Participants will also have chance to hear what strategies these organizations implemented and the results they have achieved.

For further information, contact Sara Simone at ssimone@oha.com or 416-205-1314.

OHA Annual Nutrition and Food Services Conference: New Standards, New Strategy October 1, 2007 Radisson Admiral Hotel, Toronto

This annual conference brings together food and nutrition leaders from across the province to explore the latest developments, cutting edge trends and critical issues facing the health care nutrition and food services industry. Chaired by Cathy Paroschy Harris, Director, Nutrition and Food Services, Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre, this year's conference will highlight current issues including Lean Six Sigma; new accreditation standards; the "Total Green" Kitchen, by the Inman Foodservice Group; risk management and assessment tools; and service excellence: where are we now and what is ahead?

Participants will have the opportunity to "talk shop" with leaders in the health care food service industry or learn more about the latest products or service developments. Please feel free to circulate this information to your service and product providers. Sponsorship opportunities are also available.

For further information, contact Sara Simone at ssimone@oha.com or 416-205-1314.

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OHA Conferences (continued)

Energy Savings and Capital Renewal October 18, 2007 Renaissance Toronto Hotel

Interest in energy conservation and efficiency has dramatically increased over the years. Hospitals are continually looking for ways to become more energy efficient and to lower operational costs in order to redirect funds back to patient care. This conference will explore a diverse array of hospital energy projects and leading practices to help facilities continually realize cost savings.

Participants will examine the energy situation as it pertains to hospitals and the health care sector and how to create a culture within the organization that encourages environmentally-friendly practices.

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

Board Secretaries Certificate in Good Governance October 19, 2007 Toronto Airport Marriott Hotel, Toronto

Increased emphasis on accountability in the hospital sector requires hospital trustees to ensure that they are fully engaged in their governance role. Corporate secretaries play a critical role in supporting health care boards and senior management in ensuring effective oversight.

This workshop will focus on the governance recommendations and best practices included in the *Guide to Good Governance* (the Guide). Workshop participants will have the opportunity to learn about governance principles and directors' fiduciary duties. The participants will also have the chance to identify specific issues they face in supporting the board's governance role, and learn how to adapt the templates and specimens included in the Guide to suit their own hospital requirements.

For further information, contact Josie Mazzola at jmazzola@oha.com or 416-205-1356.

Region 1 North East/North Central Sub Region Administrative Professionals Conference October 25 & 26, 2007 Clarion Resort Pinewood Park, North Bay

This workshop is designed to provide every health care administrative professional with the tools and information they need to enhance their skill-set, boost productivity and to better their work and life. The program will feature a mix of presentations, interactive discussion and opportunities to share ideas and challenges with fellow colleagues. Topics will include LHINs and their new role; information technology - working smarter, not harder; time management; respect in the workplace; legal matters; and work-life balance.

For further information, contact Joanne Grzywna at jgrzywna@oha.com or 416-205-1341 or 1-800-598-8002 ext. 1341.

Correspondence Course in Fundamental Health Care Accounting November 2007 - May 2008

This correspondence course has been designed to provide non-management staff in health care finance, or those in related departments, with an opportunity to learn about basic accounting principles and procedures in Canadian health care facilities. The program goals and objectives are: to improve understanding of the application of *Accounting Principles and Accounting Guidelines* by the Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI); outline basic accounting theory and practice for internal controls and accounting procedures, and, to provide a basic understanding of the financial revenue, expenditures and reporting in health care facilities. The correspondence course consists of nine lessons and a final exam.

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



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The Executive Report is a weekly
publication of the OHA

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