



OHCA Presentation to Standing Committee on Social Policy (LHIN Legislation)

The OHCA thanks the Standing Committee on Social Policy for the opportunity to present the OHCA perspective on the LHIN Legislation.

The OHCA has long been a supporter of the transformation agenda and a systems approach to the delivery of health care in Ontario. The Ministry's Transformation Team is to be congratulated on the comprehensive and thorough development of the LHIN system and its support to the new LHIN Chairs and CEOs.

The OHCA supports the fact that the proposed Local Health Integration Networks (LHINs) will improve patient care by allowing communities to plan and coordinate local services. This move will allow people to receive care at the right place and the right time, increasing access to local providers and home care service provision through realigned Community Care Access Centres.

The OHCA is pleased that the legislation requires the LHINs to jointly develop strategies to integrate services, using a process of community engagement thus enabling the emergence of systems approach to health care. The LHIN legislation supports local citizen engagement and encourages accountable and equitable decision-making related to funding for care needs. Identifying local priorities, planning for local health services and integrating and funding local health services are important levers embedded in the legislation to move health care in Ontario into a true systems approach to health care.

OHCA Recommendations re LHIN Legislation

The Board of the OHCA supports the stated intent of the legislation that directly prohibits LHINs from delivering care. The OHCA believes that the success of this 'made in Ontario' solution to reorganizing care at the local level will rest on the fact that the LHINs always maintain a focused planning and integrating role.

The Board of the OHCA wishes to ensure that an agenda of 'inclusivity' is maintained by the LHINs, ensuring that all service providers, (both transfer payment and non transfer payment agencies) be at the tables where discussions are held regarding service provision and the creation of Integrated Health Service Plans. The input of these providers is important and necessary to ensure good on-going care for people in Ontario. Stronger language in the legislation to reinforce this direction would be useful.

OHCA recommends that LHINs create Health Advisory Committees that are broadly inclusive of all types of professions, stakeholders and sectors. In this way the LHINs will get the best advice from many different perspectives and avoid recreating silo thinking and silo attitudes.

OHCA recommends LHINs must pay particular attention to enhancing the role and value of the home care sector in supporting the overall goals of broader health system reform and must have clear indicators that measure better transition planning and home care integration within the broader health care system. (S. VanderBent, "Transition Planning in Health Care Systems: Key Quality Processes and Outcome Measures", October 2004). Available at: <http://www.homecareontario.ca/public/about/publications.cfm> - Ontario Home and Community Care Council.

OHCA recommends that LHIN Boards must seek out members with a deep appreciation of the role and value of homecare service and its important role in health care system operation.

OHCA is particularly supportive of a broader role for the realigned CCACs. An expanded role will allow the CCACs to take a central place in the LHINs in demonstrating leadership related to the growth of community development and support. This will support an enhanced home care system in its focused growth as an integral part of the broader health care system at both the local and provincial level.

OHCA believes that the government's transformation agenda rests on the need for a strong and stable home and community care system. It is for this reason that the OHCA strongly advises and recommends that the Transition Team maintains the same careful planning process to ensure a smooth and effective transition and realignment of the CCACs boundaries within the LHINs.

OHCA recommends that LHINs broadly support the design and development of a chronic disease management continuum based on local population health needs. The home care sector plays a large role in the support and management of individuals who have life-long illnesses. This would also include an end of life and palliative care system. Current work suggests that home care has a significant role to play in pro-active chronic disease management. (Canadian Home Care Association National Partnership Project)

Susan D. VanderBent
Executive Director
January 2006



19 Melrose Avenue South
Hamilton, Ontario L8M 2Y4
Tel: 905 543-9474 Fax: 905 545-1568
Email: info@homecareontario.ca

BRINGING HEALTH CARE HOME