

Ontario Home Care Association proudly supports Change Foundation Report

July 12, 2011 The Ontario Home Care Association (OHCA) is proud to have been an integral part of the team supporting the report - *Integration of Care: The Perspectives of Home and Community Providers*, which was released by the Change Foundation today.

The findings in the *Integration of Care* report reinforce OHCA's longstanding assertion that home care plays a vital role in supporting an integrated system. Improved outcomes for clients are realized through the integration of home care in emergency departments, with primary care and palliative care to name a few examples. Key to the success of this integration at the provider level is improved coordination of care, elimination of duplication, and the recognition and optimization of the contributions of team members. This includes the recognition of the relationship between the client, their caregiver and the individual provider.

The report demonstrates a high level of awareness amongst home and community care providers as to the benefits of an integrated system and the importance of their involvement in contributing to the collaboration, coordination and timeliness of health care service delivery. An integrated system will lead to improved quality of life and better health outcomes for Ontarians, and will reduce the need for care in the most expensive parts of the health system.

OHCA will continue to work with all system partners to realize an improved health system for Ontarians.

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About the OHCA

The OHCA, *the voice of home care in Ontario*, is a membership association representing providers of quality home care services from across Ontario. OHCA members represent an estimated 25,000 staff collectively serving 300,000 Ontarians per year. OHCA works with families as integral partners in the delivery of home care services and as such estimates that 1.2 million Ontarians are impacted by members. OHCA is dedicated to promoting the growth and development of the home and community health care sector by helping to shape health care policy, supporting members to excel, and being a leading source of information on home and community care. OHCA members are accredited through Accreditation Canada, CARF, and/or registered with the International Standards Association (ISO).

For more information, contact:

Susan D. VanderBent, Executive Director

Phone: 905-543-9474

Fax: 905-545-1568

Email: suevan@homecareontario.ca

Background

Sue VanderBent is the Co-Chair of the Community Provider Associations Committee (CPAC) which provided assistance in the project and survey development; and facilitated access by the researchers to the home and community providers within their membership. CPAC includes:

- Ontario Association of Community Care Access Centres (OACCAC)
- Ontario Home Care Association (OHCA)
- Ontario Community Support Association (OCSA)
- Community Healthcare Providers' Network (CHPN)
- Ontario Association of Children's Rehabilitation Services (OACRS)
- Alliance of Professional Associations for Community-Based Therapy Services (APACTS)
- Medigas, representative of Medical Equipment and Supply Vendors.