



APRIL 2023

- ONTARIO HEALTH EAST REGION PRIMARY CARE SURVEY
- HEALTH RECRUITMENT STRATEGIC PLANNING SUMMIT
- LAUNCH OF PROJECT TEAMS
- WHAT'S NEXT?

The Great River Insider

A Newsletter for Primary Care Providers of the Great River Ontario Health Team (OHT)

Results From the Ontario Health East Region Primary Care Survey

The results were presented via Zoom on January 10, 2023. The survey gave us very high-quality data (over 86% of primary care clinicians in GR OHT were surveyed) to support what we knew, but could not prove – we are short many primary care NPs/MDs and will need even more in the next 3-5 years due to planned retirements. We also learned about the needs of primary care practices to support them with their **EMR** and other digital health tools so they can be freed up to attend to patients.

As a result of the data obtained from the survey, **Ontario Health East** has now engaged **Ontario eServices** to begin exploring the next steps toward improved technology integration and support in the future. The information obtained about the needs for recruitment and retention in primary care resulted in organizing the Health Recruitment Strategic Planning Summit.



You were unable to attend and wish to receive a copy of the final report or the presentation?
mcrabtree@wdmh.on.ca



Health Recruitment Strategic Planning Summit - March 3, 2023

The Great River OHT working with the Social Development Council and United Counties of SDG organized a full-day event at the Township of South Stormont Town Hall to hear about current recruitment and retention challenges and opportunities in our region. Nearly 100 people from various health care sectors attended, brainstorming ways to work together to benefit our health sector and the population we serve. A full report is being finalized and will be shared with participants and any interested others once all the feedback has been collated and analyzed. **If you wish to receive a copy or become a member of a collaborative recruitment and retention team, email: s.cadorette@cscestrie.on.ca.**

Launch of Project Teams – Care Transformation Underway!

The Primary Health Care Clinicians Co-Design Expert Table has been meeting since June 2022. Over the last many months, we have heard from a myriad of presenters about all the “*great things*” that primary care clinicians “*could*” and “*should*” do. Anyone reading this will know how confusing and stressful the pressures are from all directions to adopt new workflows and tools with little or no support whatsoever. As a result, there is no coordination of improvement so family doctors and nurse practitioners are doing all this additional work off the side of their desks. With the launch of Project Teams, there will be a way for **your office or group to benefit from the OHT’s collective work.**

OUR TEAMS:

Frail Older Adults and Complex Care Needs

Finding ways to improve coordination and supportive care in the community so there is less burden on primary care and emergency rooms as well as a reduction in admissions for conditions best managed in the community and a **reduction in ALC**. Ideas under consideration are: remote care monitoring programs to support those with chronic disease, expanding existing integrated/shared models of care, navigation for families and patients to find support services more easily that can prevent the need to use the health system as a social support.



Mental Health and Addictions



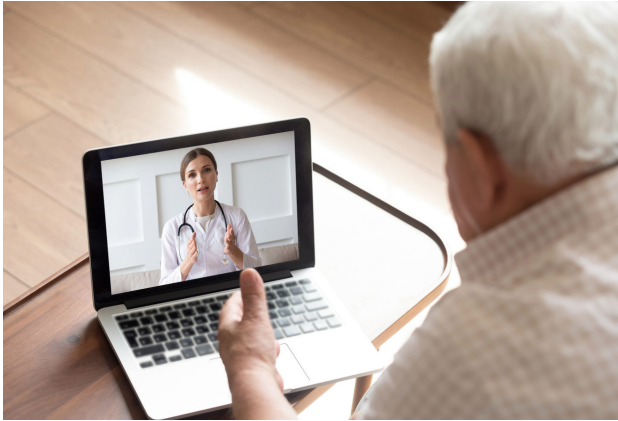
Using data from local and regional programs, the team will identify gaps in services and work to ensure streamlined and timely access to MHA services. Ideas under consideration include: prevention and early intervention program mapping to identify gaps, identifying the need for increased supports for individuals on waitlists and their families (i.e., peer support groups), and expanding mobile harm reduction initiatives. Leveraging the data and collaboration with partner organizations, the team may then advocate for funding from Ontario Health/Ministry of Health to fill the gaps or find ways to potentially transform existing resources to serve areas of identified need that are inequitably resourced within existing funding.

Building Capacity with Primary Care Providers

Leveraging the newly updated provincial primary care data and the results of the 2022 OH East Primary Care Survey this team will look for ways to take administrative loads off existing primary care providers to free them up for clinical work. This may not result in increased attachment in the short term, but if successful, could reduce the level of burnout that clinicians are experiencing and may slow the rate of attrition as a first step. Working with whatever processes and plans come from the Health Recruitment Strategic Planning Summit, the team will support ways to improve retention and recruitment of staff and primary care clinicians within our region. Working with existing practices, the team will look to identify ways to improve cancer screening for attached patients and for the unattached.



WHAT'S NEXT?



Episodic Access to Virtual Care (EAVC)

A program successfully developed and used in the Durham region during COVID-19, is being scaled and spread provincially. The East region will be going live in the coming months in stages.

More details to be shared as they become available.

Funding Application for Online Booking and Messaging

The Primary Health Care Clinicians Table will be putting together an application for funding, including the cost of necessary personnel to do the work, for practices who wish to offer online appointment booking and secure asynchronous messaging to patients. These are part of the aspirational FHO requirements from the current PSA. **MOHLTC INFOBulletin, May 2022**

If you or your group may be interested in joining this application for funding and support, please email mcrabtree@wdmh.on.ca before April 15, 2023. No commitment is required at this time, but we do need to understand the level of interest so we can apply for an appropriate amount of funding.

