

TASK GROUP TO TAKE ON PRIMARY CARE

Erie St. Clair LHIN seeking applications for new task group

NEWS

February 26, 2010

CHATHAM-KENT – In an effort to improve primary care for Chatham-Kent, Essex and Lambton counties, the Erie St. Clair Local Health Integration Network (ESC LHIN) is launching a Primary Health Care Task Group. Applications are now being accepted for the group which is being assembled to address what has been identified as a challenged system, affecting the community's overall health and reliance on Emergency Departments and clinics.

Primary Health Care is often the first level of contact a patient has with the health care system with services that promote health and wellness, prevent illness, care for common and often acute illnesses, and manage ongoing health conditions, such as diabetes. Primary health care is most often provided by a family doctor or nurse practitioner.

The ESC LHIN is looking to the Primary Health Care Task Group to provide advice on enhancing access to primary health care and maximizing the services that already exist in the community. Ultimately, the goal is to increase the availability of primary health care, provide greater equity of service, and improve health outcomes.

The Task Group will be comprised of both health care professionals and community members with a mix of skills and perspectives. Membership for the task group may include:

- Community Members (3)
- Community Health Centre/Family Health Team Representation
- Emergency Medical Services
- Long-Term Care Sector Representation
- Mental Health Sector Representation
- Nurse Practitioner
- Pharmacist
- Physician
- Registered Nurse
- Social Worker
- Other (determined by the task group as necessary)

Applications for the task group are available online at www.eriestclairhin.on.ca, or can be requested in hard copy by calling 519-351-5677 ext. 225 or by emailing shannon.sasseville@lhins.on.ca. The deadline for the submission of applications is Friday, March 19, 2010, 4:30 p.m.

QUOTES

“Work-to-date and engagement with our community clearly indicated that our focus as a LHIN and region should be directed towards improving primary care. The task group will give us the collaborative means to further understand the issue, know the breadth of services currently available, and receive recommendations to make improvements for the future.”

- Mina Grossman-Ianni, Chair, Erie St. Clair LHIN

“Primary Care is a big challenge for us, particularly in our rural communities. It’s an issue that requires us to call on the talented and dedicated people of this region to develop the kind of innovative solutions that will achieve the results we need. We are looking for the task group to lead this initiative, but also consult on a regional basis, as they see fit, to ensure that their final recommendations will work for our entire community.”

- Gary Switzer, Chief Executive Officer, ESC LHIN

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