

CHAIR'S REPORT

October 13, 2009

Appointment of new Minister:

As most of you know by now, David Caplan resigned as Minister of Health and Long Term Care last week and the following day, October 7th, Deb Matthews, the MPP for London North Centre was appointed as the new Minister. By Friday, on short notice, she called a teleconference with the LHIN Chairs to introduce herself and to request our continuing support. She assured us that the government's priorities and direction remains unchanged through the transition process and that every effort will be made to move forward now without 'missing a beat'. Although she professed not to be in a position to answer questions, we each took a turn to raise a concern or an issue and she already appeared to be well briefed at least at a high level. She acknowledges the challenges facing the Province and the need to re-claim the Ministry's agenda. She struck me as down-to-earth and a straight shooter as we move forward.

E-health:

We have circulated the Ontario Auditor-General's Special Report to you and we have all had plenty of media coverage on the subject. Although the Report finds plenty of fault with procurement practices and use of consultants within not only E-health but also in its predecessor organization, the Smart Systems for Health Agency, and the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care, nonetheless the goal of an electronic medical record and other e-health systems remain critical to integrated and improved health care delivery in the Province. We need to make the changes recommended by the Auditor-General, of course, and tighter procurement measures have already been implemented, but we also must address other priorities on the health agenda that have been displaced for months by the e-health issues.

LHSIA Review:

You may recall that Section 39 of LHSIA calls for a "...comprehensive review of this Act and the regulations made under it no earlier than three years and no later than four years after this Act receives Royal Assent..." This review is to be conducted by a Committee of the Legislative Assembly and is to make recommendations to the Assembly within a year of the commencement of the review. Our legal counsel, Eileen Clarke, reviewed the legislation at the last joint meeting of the Chairs and CEOs highlighting a range of issues that have come to her attention over the last few years and inviting further input. Two Chairs, John Magill and Juanita Gledhill as well as two CEOs offered to work with Eileen by way of providing contribution to the review. As this process moves forward I expect that we will also have an opportunity to present our feedback.

Triple Aim takes root:

The Triple Aim as a strategic framework is becoming more widely accepted in a number of respects. First of all, the Summit held on September 18th was well attended and all LHINs were represented. Along with keynote

speakers and presentations from other jurisdictions and including various LHIN experience with the triple aim design, Ken Deane linked the framework to a sense of urgency in building new ways of effective partnerships and integrating the triple aim into our work. Indeed, further follow-through of the Effectiveness Review by KPMG has been encouraged by Mr. Deane who is seeking means of measuring the impact and success of the LHIN model. And, as we consider a new Integrated Health Service Plan today, the fingerprints of Triple Aim are scattered throughout the document: "...a local road map for better health, better care and better value-for-money..."

CHA Membership:

The Ontario Hospital Association decided nearly a year ago to abandon its seat on the Canadian Healthcare Association (CHA). Since then the question has arisen whether the LHINs would be an appropriate substitute since Ontario's presence and influence is recognized and desired. Representatives from the CHA spoke to the meeting of Chairs and CEOs in September concerning this matter. The Chairs have suggested that LHINC might offer the advantage of a broad base of Associations as well as LHIN input.

LHIN Board appointments:

There has been no further appointments made yet as a result of our last recommendations, but we are proceeding with the process for advertising for interested applicants for positions that arise in the new year. Stay tuned.

Respectfully submitted,



Foster Loucks, Chair