

PHYSICIAN LEAD NAMED FOR MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTIONS Dr. Ilan Fischler providing expert advice on improving care

NEWS

May 1, 2017

The Central East LHIN is pleased to announce that Dr. Ilan Fischler, Physician-in-Chief, Ontario Shores Centre for Mental Health Sciences (Ontario Shores) was appointed to the role of Mental Health and Addictions Physician Lead for the Central East LHIN effective April 1, 2017.

Since accepting the one year appointment, Dr. Fischler has been working with members of the Central East LHIN Mental Health and Addictions (MHA) Strategic Aim Coordinating Council and other health service providers to implement improvements in the delivery of child and adolescent hospital-based mental health services, the development of a local Opioid Strategy and improving the integration of mental health and addiction services with Primary Care.

In addition, Dr. Fischler is working with his physician colleagues and LHIN-funded health service organizations in meeting the aim set by the LHIN's 2016-2019 Integrated Health Service Plan of continuing to support people to achieve an optimal level of mental health and live healthier at home by spending 15,000 fewer days in hospital and reducing repeat unscheduled emergency department visits for reasons of mental health or addictions by 13% by 2019.

QUOTES

"I am thrilled to have been appointed as the Mental Health and Addictions Physician Lead and to have this opportunity to work together with physician colleagues, health service providers and other partners to improve the regional mental health and addictions delivery system across the Central East LHIN's seven sub-regions. It is only by collaboratively working together as system leaders, in partnership with service users and their supporters, that we will be able to achieve an integrated system of care, one that focuses on better coordination of hospital, community-based and Primary Care resources so individuals with mental health and addictions issues are able to receive timely care that leads to lasting recoveries."

- Dr. Ilan Fischler, Mental Health and Addictions, Physician Lead

"Dr. Ilan Fischler is well-known for his leadership and expertise in the delivery of mental health and addictions services here in the Central East LHIN, as well as his extensive knowledge on how technology-based applications such as the [Big White Wall](#), an online support community for people feeling anxious or depressed, or having trouble coping with other mental health-related issues, can advance the mental health care system. We are very pleased to have an individual of his caliber serve as the Mental Health and Addictions Physician Lead as he provides his expert advice on performance and improvement opportunities that will result in more people with mental health and addictions issues having access to timely, high quality care."

- Deborah Hammons, Chief Executive Officer, Central East LHIN

QUICK FACTS

- Dr. Fischler is one of seven system level [Physician Leads](#) appointed by the Central East LHIN. Other Physician Leads include Dr. David Borenstein, Clinical Quality Lead; Dr. Paul Caulford, Primary Care Physician Lead; Dr. K. Jennifer Ingram, Seniors Physician Lead; Dr. Gary M. Mann, Emergency Medicine Physician Lead; Dr. Ed Osborne, Regional Palliative Care Physician Lead; and Dr. Randy S. Wax, Critical Care Physician Lead.
- In addition to the seven system level Physician Leads, the Central East LHIN has appointed Primary Care Physician Leads in each of the seven sub-regions to support the implementation of [Health Links](#), the [Patients First: Action Plan for Health Care](#) and the ongoing design and implementation of integrated systems of care as described in the LHIN's [2016-2019 Integrated Health Service Plan](#).
- The [Central East LHIN MHA Strategic Aim Coordinating Council](#), co-chaired by Dr. Fischler and Rob Adams, Executive Director, Durham Mental Health Services, includes individuals living in the Central East LHIN who self-identify as having “lived experience” or experience as a supporter of a person who is dealing with either a mental health and/or addictions issue, addictions service providers, community-based service providers, hospital service providers and a primary care provider.
- [Ongoing monitoring](#) by the LHIN of improvements in the delivery of mental health and addictions services has shown a decrease in the number of people visiting Central East LHIN emergency departments for mental health issues as new community services are introduced and existing services are enhanced.
- With approximately 20% of Canadians experiencing a mental illness during their lifetime, and the remaining 80% affected by an illness in family members, friends or colleagues, a continuing focus on those with mental health and addiction issues is paramount.

LEARN MORE

Visit the Central East LHIN website at <http://www.centraleastlhin.on.ca/aboutus/lhinleads.aspx> for more information about Dr. Fischler, and for complete biographies of all Central East LHIN Physician Leads.

For more information on the LHIN's Mental Health and Addictions Strategic Aim, please visit the Central East LHIN website - <http://www.centraleastlhin.on.ca/goalsandachievements/mentalhealthandaddictions.aspx>

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