

Central East LHIN supports response to Opioid Crisis

Province and LHIN increasing investments in addictions treatment and services

NEWS

November 22, 2017

As part of Ontario's comprehensive Strategy to Prevent Opioid Addiction and Overdose, the Central East Local Health Integration Network (Central East LHIN) is investing \$1.6 million in regional supports to help people impacted by opioid addiction and overdose.

This current investment will support the development and implementation of Rapid Access Addiction Medicine (RAAM) Clinics to provide people with immediate and ongoing addiction treatment, counselling and other mental health supports in Scarborough, Durham Region and Peterborough sub-regions. This investment will also ensure more support for existing community-based withdrawal management services (CWMS) and treatment in Scarborough, Durham Region and Peterborough sub-regions and will establish CWMS in the Haliburton County and City of Kawartha Lakes sub-region.

The investment will also support the expansion of existing opioid case management services in the Durham and Scarborough sub-regions and more Harm Reduction Outreach Services in targeted neighbourhoods in the LHIN.

As the Central East LHIN lead for addictions, Lakeridge Health is also establishing an Opioid Strategy Action Group. Co-chaired by Paul McGary, Director, Mental Health and Addictions at Lakeridge Health and Dr Rosanna Salvaterra, Medical Officer of Health, Peterborough Public Health, the Action Group will plan and lead work related to improving access and coordination of opioid-related addiction and medical services across the Central East LHIN. This will better connect clients facing opioid-related addiction challenges and risks to the right care at the right time.

With representatives from Police departments, Paramedic Services, Hospital Emergency Departments, Addictions service providers, people with lived experience and the LHIN's Mental Health Physician Lead, the Opioid Strategy Action Group will be looking at best practices in other jurisdictions and engaging with stakeholders in order to submit their report by February 2018.

QUOTES

“The devastating impact of opioid use disorder and overdose has reached every community in Ontario, and crosses all demographics. Our government has been working closely with partners across the province to combat this urgent issue for more than a year, and we are continuing to strengthen our strategy and increase harm reduction, addiction treatment and other supports. It is through this collaborative, evidence-based and comprehensive approach that we will be able to effectively address this crisis and save lives.”

— Dr. Eric Hoskins, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care

“The Central East LHIN, together with the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care and in partnership with its health service providers and other partners, is focussed on addressing the opioid crisis. Across our LHIN we have seen an increase in the number of opioid overdoses being treated in our hospital emergency departments. We are confident that the \$1.6 million investment will have an immediate impact on our ability to support individuals dealing with an opiate addiction and that the report from the Opioid Strategy Action Group will lead to future improvements.”

- Deborah Hammons, CEO, Central East LHIN

QUICK FACTS

- Announced in fall 2016, Ontario’s comprehensive [Strategy to Prevent Opioid Addiction and Overdose](#) is ensuring people in pain receive appropriate treatment, increasing access to holistic treatment for those with opioid use disorder, and improving the safety and health of people who use opioids, including access to the life-saving drug naloxone.
- Over the next three years, Ontario is investing more than \$222 million province-wide to combat the opioid crisis in Ontario, including expanding harm reduction services, hiring more front-line staff and improving access to addictions supports across the province.
- Naloxone kits are distributed for free across Ontario. [Find the location nearest you.](#)
- Ontario is establishing an Opioid Emergency Task Force that will include a province-wide representation of front-line workers and people with lived experience to strengthen the province’s coordinated response to the opioid crisis.

LEARN MORE

For more information on the Central East LHIN’s Regional Opioid Strategy, please visit the Central East LHIN website – www.centraleastlhin.on.ca and click on [“Board Meetings – November 22, 2017 – Central East Regional Opioid Strategy.”](#)

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Backgrounder

Ontario and the Central East Local Health Integration Network are improving access to addictions treatment and services through immediate targeted investments to help prevent and treat opioid addiction and overdose. These investments will build upon current services such as withdrawal management, case management and outreach.

Key Strategic Components	Initiative	Health Service Provider	Amount
Expansion of RAAM Clinics and Services	RAAM Clinic	Scarborough and Rouge Hospital	\$200,000
	RAAM Clinic	Lakeridge Health	\$300,000
	RAAM Clinic	Peterborough Regional Health Centre	\$200,000
	Sub-Total		\$700,000
Boosting Access to CWMS and Addictions Programs	CWMS and Treatment	Scarborough and Rouge Hospital Lakeridge Health	\$380,000
	CWMS and Treatment	Fourcast	\$190,000
	Sub-Total		\$570,000
Expanding Proven Harm Reduction Services	Street Outreach Services	Lakeridge Health Fourcast	\$210,000
Other	Increased Opioid Case Management Capacity	Scarborough Rouge Hospital	\$75,000
		Lakeridge Health	
	Communications and Training	To be redirected to frontline services in 2018/19	\$45,000
	Sub-Total		\$330,000
	Total		\$1,600,000