

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

April 3, 2008

CENTRAL EAST LHIN AND ROUGE VALLEY HEALTH SYSTEM HOLD CONSULTATIONS 30-day period to inform stakeholders and gather input on consolidation plan

On March 28th the Central East LHIN Board of Directors approved the Rouge Valley Health System's 2008-2010 Hospital Service Accountability Agreement (HSAA). The budget assumptions included in the HSAA were based on the Rouge Valley Health System's Deficit Elimination Plan which includes the consolidation of 20 in-patient mental health beds from Rouge Valley's Ajax and Pickering site to the Rouge Valley Centenary site.

In approving the HSAA, the CE LHIN Board passed a motion requiring Rouge Valley to work with LHIN staff to conduct a 30-day consultation period with community stakeholders and the general public prior to the implementation of the consolidation.

The purpose of this 30-day consultation period, which runs from April 4 to May 4, is twofold:

- Inform and educate stakeholders, including the general public, about the planned changes to mental health services;
- Gather input on the implementation of the mental health consolidation plan as it relates to access, through an integrated approach that involves local community stakeholders and health care providers.

"Community engagement is a cornerstone to the CE LHIN vision and transformation agenda," said Foster Loucks, Chair of the Central East LHIN Board of Directors. "It is essential in the change process that we are collectively undertaking as we build a stronger, more integrated health care system."

The general public is invited to attend an open meeting on Thursday, April 10th, which is being held in the HMS Room at the Ajax Community Centre, 75 Centennial Road from 7 – 9 p.m.

The meeting will be facilitated by Mental Health Advocate Dan Carter, Executive Producer of *Live at Five* and *First Take Live*, Channel 12 – CHEX TV Durham and will provide the public with the opportunity to offer their input.

Input can also be shared through the Central East LHIN website behind the Resource Documents/Community Engagement button or by mail, fax or phone.

At the end of the 30-day period, Rouge Valley and the Central East LHIN staff will jointly prepare a report on the findings, post it on their websites for public information and forward it to their respective boards.

For more information, please visit the CE LHIN or Rouge Valley websites.

- 30 -

Media contacts:

Katie Cronin-Wood
Communications Lead
Central East LHIN
905-427-5497 ext. 218

Dave Brazeau
Director, Public Affairs and Community Relations
Rouge Valley Health System
416-284-8131 ext. 4010

