

March 25, 2014



HEALTHCARE BEYOND THE BODY

Central East LHIN supports PRHC and Curve Lake First Nation Partnership to Enhance Culturally Competent Care

(Peterborough) Chief Phyllis Williams and Ken Tremblay, President & CEO were pleased to thank the Central East Local Health Integration Network for their support of an innovative partnership to enhance culturally competent care. With the LHIN's support, over 200 staff from PRHC and other local organizations (see reverse for full list), participated in three (3), one-day training sessions led by Elder Pauline Shirt.

"We were anxious to help when leaders from PRHC approached us and asked for guidance on how to best support their staff to better understand the needs of First Nations patients," said Chief Williams. *"This important training would not have been possible without the support of the LHIN."*

Elder Pauline Shirt, Cree, Red Hawk-Tail Clan, with an impressive background of working in the mental health and wellness circles, led the sessions at the Curve Lake Community Centre which included a morning prayer, and drum ceremonies to begin and end each day. Goals of the training included:

- Understanding Aboriginal concepts of health and healing
- Gaining a better understanding of the historical, political and cultural issues that impact the social determinants of health, access to health services and inter-generational health outcomes
- Through a process of self-reflection, learners will identify, acknowledge and analyze their own cultural values or emotional responses to the many diverse histories, cultures, world views, values, and contemporary events relating to First Nations, Inuit and/or Metis people

"Providing great care and experiences at PRHC, and making people healthier goes beyond excellent diagnostics and treatments. It's about the whole person," said Mr. Tremblay. Culturally competent care is the ability to provide care to patients with diverse values, beliefs and behaviours, including tailoring delivery to meet patients' social, cultural and linguistic needs. *"Whether it's a senior, First Nation family member or someone with special accessibility needs, the overwhelmingly positive response from staff is a testament to their desire to understand and meet the expectations of the people we serve."*

"Initially we were a little daunted by the challenges of holding this training ~ but to our relief Chief Williams, Kathy MacLeod-Beaver, Marcie Williams, and Wendy Phillips quickly agreed to guide us," said Steve Foulon, Manager of PRHC's Child and Adolescent Mental Health program. *"We are thrilled that our partners could also join us. The more we all understand about the people we serve, the better their opportunity to live healthier lives."*

In 2010, the First Nations Health Advisory Circle and the Métis, Inuit, Non-Status People's Advisory Committee were officially established by the Central East LHIN and the Alderville First Nation, Curve Lake First Nation, Hiawatha First Nation, Métis Nation of Ontario and the Mississaugas of Scugog Island First Nation. Together the Circle and the Committee, advise on various topics reflecting on provincial and Central East LHIN priorities that impact the First Nations and urban-based Aboriginal peoples. *"Supporting health service provider awareness of and sensitivity to the First Nations and aboriginal culture and how this improves each person's individual and collective health is extremely important,"* said Deborah Hammons, CEO of the Central East LHIN. *"This training is a very positive, concrete step and we were pleased to be a part of making it happen."*

For more information, contact: Arnel Schiratti, aschiratti@prhc.on.ca or 705-876-5151

Full list of Participating Organizations:

Brain Injury Association

Canadian Mental Health Association – Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge

Elizabeth Fry Society

Five Counties Children's Centre

Peterborough County-City Health Unit

Point InTime

Ross Memorial Hospital

Fleming College

Trent University

Youth Emergency Shelter