



# Central East

## LOCAL HEALTH INTEGRATION NETWORK

### NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release – May 1, 2007

## MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTIONS NETWORK EXPANDING ITS MEMBERSHIP

Consumers and family members encouraged to join with providers in improving system

May 1, 2007 – The Central East LHIN is working with the Mental Health and Addictions community to expand the membership of a renewed Mental Health and Addictions Network. The LHIN, which has already involved hundreds of people in its Seamless Care for Seniors (SCFS) Network and Chronic Disease Prevention and Management (CDPM) Network, is now inviting interested individuals, including consumers and family members to participate in its new Mental Health and Addictions (MHA) Network.

“Mental Health and Addictions leaders from across the Central East community created a network of providers in 2005, who began working together even before the LHIN got underway,” said Marilyn Emery, CEO of the Central East LHIN. “Their commitment and foresight ensured that a Mental Health and Addictions system was identified as a priority area right from the beginning and their advice and contribution is reflected in the LHIN’s first Integrated Health Service Plan.”

In March 2007 the existing provider-based MHA Network agreed to work with the LHIN to reorganize into an expanded network that, along with providers from all Central East communities, would involve interested individuals including mental health and addictions consumers and their family members.

“By strengthening the membership of the network, we can align the work being done to improve the Mental Health and Addictions system with the LHIN’s other priorities including Seamless Care for Seniors and Chronic Disease,” said James Meloche, Senior Director, Planning, Integration and Community Engagement for the Central East LHIN. “This will create new opportunities for stronger working relationships between the LHIN’s three networks and nine local advisory teams.”

The new MHA Network Steering Committee and its expanded membership will work with the LHIN and act as a resource to identify needs, assist in planning, assist with implementation of those plans, and be a forum for communication and collaboration amongst all mental health and addictions stakeholders.

Anyone who is interested in being part of the new Mental Health and Addictions Network Steering Committee is asked to review the Network’s Terms of Reference and complete an Expression of Interest form by May 11th. Both documents are posted on the Central East LHIN website ([www.centraleastlhin.on.ca](http://www.centraleastlhin.on.ca)) behind the Health Interest Networks button. Expression of Interest forms will be reviewed by an expert panel as it creates a 13-member Steering Committee that will include consumers, family members and mental health and addictions providers.

Becoming a member of the expanded Mental Health and Addictions Network is as simple as filling out a membership application form which is also posted on the Central East LHIN website. Membership in the Network is voluntary and there is no membership fee. The Steering Committee will work with the membership to provide direction and advice to the LHIN.

People who don’t have access to the Internet are encouraged to phone the Central East LHIN office at 905-427-5497 or 1-866-804-5446 and forms can be mailed to them when requested.

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The Central East LHIN, which recently released its first Integrated Health Service Plan, is one of 14 not-for-profit organizations, created by the provincial government to be responsible for planning, integrating and funding local health services - hospitals, long term care facilities, community care access centres, community health centres, community support services and mental health and addictions agencies.

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