

Health Minister Deb Matthews Celebrates Innovation with North Simcoe Muskoka LHIN

Local Health Integration Network brings health partners together to improve patient care

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Barrie – Minister of Health and Long Term Care Deb Matthews, today joined over 350 people in celebrating the over 20,000 person-hours of workshops and meetings that have resulted in an Integrated Health System Design for the North Simcoe Muskoka (NSM) LHIN.

NSM LHIN's Board Chair, Ruben Rosen, and CEO Bernie Blais, told their guests of their pride in having achieved this important milestone and congratulated the over 140 organizations that brought their voice, vision, leadership and their stories to the development of the plan. The Integrated Health System Design and Information Communication Technology and ehealth Strategy Plan, were developed under the project umbrella entitled Care Connections—Partnering for Healthy Communities.

The Integrated Health System Design includes recommendations to realize a system-wide approach for health services delivery focused on the needs of the person. The plan identified the following areas of focus in the first three years:

1. Building on existing momentum;
2. Areas of significant need; and
3. Initiatives for making system-wide progress.

The audience included leaders from health care and community support partners of NSM LHIN, health care and community partners' board members, physicians, CEOs, CIOs, community leaders as well as representatives from the other LHINs.

Greg Reed, CEO for eHealth Ontario was among the distinguished speakers at today's event, and Ontario Medical Association (OMA) President, Dr. Mark MacLeod, brought his congratulations and remarks from the OMA to the day's event. Three stories from caregivers and patients on how they see the future health care system better meeting their needs, were also part of the day's proceedings.

QUOTES

- "It's important for us to come together – especially in this time of change – to exchange ideas and think about the future of this great healthcare system of ours. Ontarians want improved access to high-quality health care and it's up to us to work together and learn from each other to ensure we can deliver. I want to congratulate the North Simcoe Muskoka LHIN on this important milestone."
Honourable Deb Matthews, Minister of Health and Long Term Care
- "North Simcoe Muskoka LHIN has been a leader in local integration efforts which aligns well with eHealth Ontario's vision of connecting the province, starting with areas of regional collaboration. This

enables us to reach our goal of secure and comprehensive EHRs for all Ontarians.” Greg Reed, CEO eHealth Ontario

- “I am especially proud of today’s event as it marks an important milestone for NSM LHIN’s integration mandate. I was there when we started on this journey with one staff member and a huge workload ahead of us to build an Integrated Health Service Plan. Here we are today with a solid, creative and exciting system design, supported by our Healthcare Providers, which will begin implementation following further community engagement and LHIN Board approval in Spring 2011.” North Simcoe Muskoka Local Health Integration Network Board Chair, Ruben Rosen
- “I have been involved in many, many plans during my career and I can honestly say that none of those were this comprehensive, engaged so many people and brought out so much passion and excitement for the potential quality, access and service improvements that can actually be achieved.” Bernie Blais, CEO NSM LHIN
- "The future of and the sustainability of health care in this province is a crucial issue and we welcome a thoughtful and thorough discussion with the government and other health care partners about improvements to the health care system. Ontario's doctors know that when we work together, we can improve patients' access to high quality, equitable health care that will also result in the best outcomes for patients. Dr. Mark MacLeod, President, Ontario Medical Association

QUICK FACTS

- Over 5,000 people participated in the development of the first Integrated Health Services Plan (2006 to 2009)
- The Integrated Health Services Plan (2010 to 2013) identified the need for an Integrated Health System Design
- 20,000 person-hours by over 350 people representing over 140 organizations developed the Integrated Health System Design (2010)

LEARN MORE

For more information on Care Connections and eHealth projects go on our website at www.nsmhlin.on.ca . The final report will be completed by year end and posted on our website.

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Download North Simcoe Muskoka LHIN’s Integrated Health Service Plan 2010-2013: [Working Together to Achieve Better Health, Better Care, Better Value](#)