

MEDIA RELEASE

Sudbury ALC Community Steering Group Reports on Successes

Monday, July 5, 2010 – Earlier today, the Co-Chairs of the Sudbury ALC Community Steering Group provided an update on the work-to-date with their 10-point action plan. Terry Tilleczek, Senior Director with the NE LHIN and Dr. Peter Zalan spoke about the successes, outcomes and continued focus of the action-oriented group. Highlights of the successes to date include:

- Creation of a 136-bed transitional care unit at the Memorial site to care for ALC patients until St. Gabriel's long-term care home opens in early 2011.
- Development of geriatric rehabilitation unit at St. Joseph's Continuing Care Centre.
- Development of programs at Sudbury Regional Hospital including, elderly unit, elder life program, geriatric case manager and additional medical day hospital spaces.
- Implementation of registered nurse long-term care home outreach program at Extencicare York and Falconbridge.
- Commitment to further support and develop a regional Home First Strategy to allow ALC patients to be cared for in their own homes while making a significant life decision about possible placement in a long-term care home or suitable setting.

The focus and implementation of longer-term items will continue, such as the recruitment of an additional Geriatrician, targeted funding for an increase in seniors assisted living in the City of Greater Sudbury, opening of additional long-term care beds in existing spaces, as well as other initiatives. The full update is included in the attached *Backgrounder*.

The Co-Chairs noted that the long-standing issue of ALC will continue as a challenge for some time as people work to meet the needs of the region's growing senior's population.

Quotes

Louise Paquette, NE LHIN Chief Executive Officer stated, "The work to-date of the Sudbury ALC Community Group is commendable. Tackling the long-standing issue of ALC cannot be done by health care professionals alone, it is a community issue. The leadership demonstrated by the members of this Community Group is a model that has and will continue to be replicated across Northeastern Ontario as the NE LHIN stays focused on providing the right care in the right place for our region's frail and elderly."

Terry Tilleczek, NE LHIN Senior Director and Steering Group Co-Chair noted, "Much work has been done and successes accomplished by the commitment of our Steering Group members. There is no denying that more work remains, however, we will continue to be diligent in our efforts and work together in order to find viable solutions."

Dr. Peter Zalan said, "The needs of our elderly population are growing and the health care system must find practical solutions to address this. As a physician who works on the frontlines of health care every day, I am pleased to be at the table to provide input on the future direction of our health system. We are focusing on three immediate priorities: additional living and long-term care capacity, patient flow and specialized geriatric services."

Facts

- The ALC Community Steering group was formed in December 2008. Their action plan was created in January 2009.
- Within Northeastern Ontario, it is anticipated that the current 17% of the population age 65 and over will almost double by 2030 to 30%.
- The North East LHIN's top priority is ED/ALC – reducing emergency department wait times and focusing on the right care at the right time for the frail and elderly while reducing ALC numbers in the region's hospital beds.

For further information, please contact:

Cynthia Stables; NE LHIN Senior Corporate Advisor, (705) 845-1887
Vivianne Lapointe; Senior Advisor, Corporate Communications (705) 523-7118.

Disponible en français.

Backgrounder

Review of Work to date (status report on work plan of January 2009)

(1) Supportive Housing

Objective: To identify opportunities and resource requirements for the development of supportive housing capacity in the City of Greater Sudbury in the immediate and mid- (3-5 years) term specifically targeted at seniors and the ALC population (current or at risk).

Results:

- NE LHIN Year 3 Aging at Home funding is targeted to increase seniors assisted living. Once approved this will result in 84 enhanced assisted living units in Sudbury.
- The NE LHIN and the Community of Greater Sudbury are working with housing developers to expand affordable seniors housing supply and assisted living services.

(2) Alternate Care/Housing Options Using Current Capacity

Objective: To focus on short-term actions and agreements using existing space which can act as a residence for clients who are currently receiving care as an ALC patient within the Sudbury/Manitoulin area.

Results:

- During 2009/10, spaces at a local retirement home were used for ALC patients that needed supports, freeing up the equivalent of eight long-term care beds.
- Due to policy issues, this program has ceased. With the new Long-Term Care Act that came into effect on July 1, 2010, there may be an opportunity to restart the program.

(3) Bed Capacity Challenges Associated with Single Site Initiative and Transition Needs

Objective: To develop a transitional strategy using existing infrastructure to provide sufficient system bed capacity to allow the Sudbury Regional Hospital to transition to a single site while additional capacity in the community is constructed over the following 36 month period.

Results:

- An operational and funding plan to maintain up to 136 beds at the Memorial site was developed and implemented in February 2010.
- The 136 beds will be reduced to 100 in July 2010.
- These 100 beds will be maintained until St. Gabriel's Long-term Care Home opens in early 2011.

(4) Specialized Services Development

Objective: To complete an estimate of the short-term and longer term service requirements for ALC patients requiring rehabilitation, convalescent care and or behavioural support inpatient care.

Results

- A high level analysis of geriatric programming needs and opportunities was completed in early 2010. As a result of this work a number of initiatives are in the process of being planned for:
 - Geriatric Day Hospital at Sudbury Regional; Acute Care of the Elderly Service; Geriatric Emergency Management Nurse; Geriatric Day Hospital at the HRSRH; Geriatric rehabilitation unit at St. Joseph's Continuing Care Centre; Recruitment of an additional geriatrician is underway.

(5) Integrated Care Pathways Project

Objective: To develop a formalized care pathway and process for ALC and ALC-prone client populations (including private and public sector providers).

Results

- As part of a provincial pilot project, the NE CCAC has implemented an integrated care pathway for diabetes wound care management in the Sudbury area. There are currently 60 clients who are receiving service under this new model of community care delivery.
- In addition, the CCAC is in the process of implementing, integrated care pathways for chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and congestive heart failure in Sudbury. These are two major causes for ED visits.

(6) Implementing the Registered Nurse Long-Term Care Home Outreach Program

Objective: To establish nurse led outreach teams in long-term care homes to work with physicians and providers to provide assessment, treatment and ongoing monitoring of residents to reduce the frequency of transfers to emergency departments and the number of patient days long-term care residents occupy a hospital bed.

Results

- The Outreach Team started in early 2010 at Extendicare York and Falconbridge. Plans are in place to expand the program to other long-term care homes this year.

(7) Enhancing Primary Care Services in the Home Setting

Objective: To provide unattached ALC clients and unattached at-risk of becoming ALC clients, timely access to appropriate health care services/ providers, by integrating the primary, acute and community health care need, for this population.

Results

- It was determined that many of the issues related to enhancing primary care services are related to physician remuneration. There are provincial level activities that are occurring to address this issue, as a result this item has been retired.

(8) Health Human Resource Challenges: Recruitment and Retention

Objective: to identify current and anticipated pressures within the personal support worker workforce, and strategies to ensure the short- and long-term sustainability of this workforce.

Results

- Completion of a report which focused on personal support workers and education and training, promotion and recruitment, retention and working conditions, worker recognition, support and teamwork. The report and an implementation plan will be brought to the NE LHIN in September 2010.

(9) Role of Prevention and Promotion

Objective: to develop a health promotion strategy and action plan targeted towards “at risk” individuals in the city of Greater Sudbury.

Results

- Work and recommendations on this priority will be revisited in September, 2010.

(10) Long-Term Care Bed Needs Analysis

Objective: To identify future long-term care bed capacity in the Sudbury area.

Results

- The Group is securing both additional permanent long-term care beds and interim care beds in Sudbury.