

Media Release

One Agency for Addiction and Mental Health Services in Algoma

Thursday, November 4, 2010 – The North East LHIN has supported the creation of an Anchor Agency to integrate 129 addiction and mental health services currently being provided by 18 providers in Algoma.

The announcement comes following several years of planning and many community, consumer and health care provider engagements. It is expected that the agency will provide easier access to addiction and mental health services for consumers and their families. The NE LHIN will be monitoring the creation of the model closely and anticipates that the learnings may be applied to adopt similar models across the region.

The NE LHIN will work with partners to plan and implement the Anchor Agency over the next 24 months. During this time, consumers, family members and key stakeholders will continue to be engaged.

Quotes:

“The Anchor Agency will help to foster a stronger voice for Algoma addiction and mental health services for consumers and their families. As a lifelong resident of Sault Ste. Marie, I am confident that this new agency will benefit the people of Algoma and the community at large.”

- Peter Vaudry, NE LHIN Interim Chair

“Caring communities are those that look after their most vulnerable citizens. The Anchor Agency will better serve addiction and mental health consumers by providing the opportunity to receive the care they need in one location.”

-Louise Paquette, NE LHIN CEO

“The decision of the North East LHIN is in keeping with the direction already identified in the Ministry’s ten year transformation strategy as well as the recommendations of the Select Committee. The Anchor Agency will formalize many of the collaborative practices being done within Algoma and will further support client care.”

- Russ Larocque, Northeastern representative on the Minister of Health's Advisory Group developing the Ministry's 10 year Mental Health and Addiction Strategy, and Director of Clinical Services Delivery, Algoma Family Services

Facts:

- The creation of the Algoma Anchor Agency is in keeping with the soon-to-be released 10 year Addiction and Mental health strategy of the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care and the recommendations of the province’s Select Committee on Addictions and Mental Health.
- There are currently more than 80 different organizations providing addiction and mental health services across Northeastern Ontario.

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- At some time in their lives, about 20% of Ontarians – one in every five people – will experience a serious mental illness or harmful substance use, and 5% will have a serious problem with gambling.
- Between 15% and 21% of children and youth in Ontario have at least one mental health issue; and 10% to 25% of seniors experience mental health disorders.

For more information please contact:

Cynthia Stables, Senior Corporate Advisor;
cynthia.stables@lhins.on.ca or (705) 845-1887

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