South West Hospice Palliative Care Network Update

January 2017
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HPC Collaborative Highlights

The sub-region Collaboratives met in December to review the 2016 Capacity Planning Refresh. The 5 Collaboratives supported the capacity refresh and the report was endorsed by HPC Leadership. The Capacity Planning Refresh will be shared with the public in January.

Provincial

The South West LHIN has identified the Clinical Co-Leads that will fulfill the critical role in improving hospice palliative care across all patient populations, illness trajectories and health care settings. The Regional Clinical Co-Leads report to the South West LHIN Senior Director, System Design and Integration and the Regional Vice President of London Regional Cancer Program. The Regional Clinical Co-Leads will collaborate with local clinicians and other partners to improve hospice palliative care across all patient populations, illness trajectories and health care settings. Together, with the South West Hospice Palliative Care Network (SWHPCN) Lead, they will be responsible for the delivery of regional work plans and completion of annual objectives. See attached announcement.

Regional

Education

The Education Subcommittee continues to develop the Year 1 priorities identified in the Education Report including:

- Annual Education Day for Hospice Palliative Care
- Application of the E-Learning Platform
- Enhanced education to Home and Community Service providers through more Fundamentals and CAPCE programs
- Development of a plan to increase the HPC education of front-line providers by 20% over next 3 years.

SWAHN Palliative Care Working Group

The SWAHN Palliative Care Working Group held a workshop in December to set objectives for 2017 and to focus on aligning measurements to their work. The Ontario Palliative Care Network attended the workshop and will begin working with SWAHN in order to leverage the work completed in our region as OPCN begins to look at standardization of HPC education across the province. Focus groups will be held in the new year based on profession to establish how HPC education can be standardized in curriculums.
Hospice Palliative Care Planning

The commissioned report for a Huron Perth solution for residential hospice was endorsed by the Huron Perth Collaborative and the HPC Leadership Committee and the guiding principles for RH planning will be going to the Board in January for approval.

A second Communique was released in December in order to continue to provide transparent communication to communities. The Communique focused on process and next steps for residential hospice planning. RH planning tools have been developed in order to provide clear process for decision making.
Announcement – South West Hospice Palliative Care Leadership Team

On behalf of the South West Hospice Palliative Care (HPC) Network, we are pleased to announce that Dr. Valerie Schulz and Lisa Penner have accepted the Regional Hospice Palliative Care Clinical Co-Lead roles for our LHIN. We are excited to welcome Dr. Schulz to our leadership team. Lisa Penner will be continuing on as our Hospice Palliative Care Administrative Lead and will adjust her time accordingly to enable her to increase her focus on clinical engagement and leadership in addition to her current HPC leadership responsibilities. We are also pleased to announce that Dr. Anita Singh will be joining our team as the INTEGRATE Palliative Care Physician Lead. Dr. Singh will focus her efforts on the implementation of the INTEGRATE initiative – initially in the London Middlesex sub-region – to ensure that cancer patients receive timely and appropriate symptom management, are supported with dignity and respect throughout the course of their illness, and, in the face of incurable disease, have the opportunity to live or die in a setting of their choice. It is envisioned that the INTEGRATE model will ultimately be spread across the entire South West LHIN. Together, Dr. Schultz, Lisa Penner and Dr. Singh, will work to enhance the hospice palliative care agenda by engaging individuals and families, health service providers, clinicians and other partners to both build on and accelerate existing hospice palliative care improvement efforts. The ultimate goal is to improve hospice palliative care across all patient populations, illness trajectories and health care settings.

Our Team Members

Dr. Valerie Schulz brings over 20 years’ experience from clinical, health systems and research perspectives. Clinically, she has been dedicated to enhancing palliative care in our community, the cancer clinic, outpatient and acute care settings for both cancer and non-cancer patient populations. Her dedication to palliative care led to the completion of a Master’s in Public Health, and subsequent participation in palliative care health systems research and education development. She has been invited to national and provincial tables such as; the Co-Lead of the Ontario Renal Network/Cancer Care Ontario Palliative Care Committee, the Ontario Provincial Clinical Council in Hospice Palliative Care, the Canadian Society of Palliative Care Physicians Board, and the Royal College of Physicians & Surgeons of Canada Specialty Committee on Palliative Medicine.

Lisa Penner brings 24 years of health care experience. Lisa is currently the South West LHIN Hospice Palliative Care Lead responsible for leading and supporting implementation of the integrated vision for hospice palliative care developed by the South West HPC Network. She began her career in Detroit, Michigan as a Registered Nurse in the Emergency Department at Detroit Receiving Hospital. She then moved back to London Health Sciences Centre South Street where she worked in Cardiac Surgery and ED. In 1998, Lisa became the Clinical Nurse Educator at Tillsonburg District Memorial Hospital. In 2004, Lisa transitioned to the Chief Nursing Executive role at Alexandra Hospital Ingersoll until 2014. She completed a Master’s in Business Administration in 2014.

Dr. Anita Singh brings more than 20 years’ experience in palliative care, for the past 6 years as the palliative care consultant for The London Regional Cancer Program, providing palliative support to cancer patients in outpatient clinics. She has been the course coordinator for the
Ministry of Health, Initiative 2 funding which supports palliative care education for family doctors in the York, Simcoe and Toronto area and has been a LEAP facilitator since 2012. She has completed a significant amount of work in Postgraduate Education and led in the development of the Conjoint Palliative Medicine Residency Program at Western University and the End of Life Care Module for the University of Toronto Postgraduate Medical Education (PGME) Core curriculum web Initiative. Through Cancer Care Ontario she was a member of the Palliative Care Measurement Subcommittee which was tasked to develop an evaluation framework for the palliative care program.

Please join us in welcoming Valerie, Anita and Lisa to the team. We are excited about the opportunities ahead to further strengthen and improve hospice palliative care in partnership with, and on behalf of, the individuals and families that receive care in the South West LHIN.

Regards,

Donna Ladouceur, Hospice Palliative Care Leadership Co-Chair  
Neil Johnson, Hospice Palliative Care Leadership Co-Chair  
Kelly Gillis, Senior Director, System Design and Integration