



2007 alPHA Annual Conference

DAY 1, JUNE 11 2007 - PLENARY DISCUSSION: LOCAL HEALTH INTEGRATION NETWORKS AND PUBLIC HEALTH

In 2005, the Minister of Health and Long-term Care announced that Ontario would move to a regional structure to plan, coordinate and fund health care. In April, 2006, 14 Local Health Integration Networks were established.

LHINs were given the responsibility for:

- Public and private hospitals
- Community Care Access Centres
- Community Support Service Organizations
- Mental Health and Addiction Agencies
- Community Health Centres
- Long-Term Care Homes

The government retained control for:

- Individual practitioners
- Family Health Teams
- Ambulance Services
- Laboratories
- Provincial drug programs
- Provincial programs
- Independent Health Facilities
- Public Health

Each LHIN has developed an integrated health service plan for their area.

On April 1, 2007, LHINs began their full role as coordinators and funders of health services in Ontario. At that time, they took over agreements with local providers that had been negotiated with the government.

LHINs are now responsible for nearly two-thirds of the MOHLTC's budget.

The following questions were used to guide the discussion:

1. How do the mandates of public health and LHINs intersect or overlap with respect to primary prevention and health promotion?
2. How could information sharing between PH and LHINs take place for primary prevention/health promotion as it applies to the acute/primary care setting?

3. What do you think the ideal relationship should be between PH and LHINs?
4. Should public health and LHINs work together on population level health planning? Who should play what role?
5. Public Health: Have changes to organizations that are now funded through the LHINs impacted on public health planning and programs? What are the changes? What are the impacts?
6. LHINs: What supports do you rely on/hope to get from organizations that don't fall under your umbrella?
7. Given the different structures (both administrative and geographic) across the province for both LHINs and PH what role should and/or could public health play in supporting the LHIN's integrated service plan?
8. What are some examples of how you are working together now? How were initial contacts made?
9. To give the audience an idea of how they may interact with LHINs (different health units are at different places with this) - How are your planning tables organized, how are you making decisions, where can public health go to interact e.g., CEO forums, planning meetings?

Our Panel consists of 3 individuals representing LHINs and 3 individuals representing public health.

Gary Switzer is CEO of the Erie St. Clair Integration Network which includes Windsor. He has had a distinguished career in the Telecom and Cable business both in Canada and the Middle East. As a senior executive with industry leading companies; Bell, Rogers and Cogeco, he has earned a reputation for producing outstanding results in a very competitive and customer focused industry.

He is a strategic and operational professional with a career-long record of launching and leading groundbreaking ventures in the Telecommunications Industry. A talent for spearheading change programs to improve customer service and operational effectiveness.

Gary has served on The Boards of the Neptune Theatre and The Halifax Club. He is a graduate of the Executive Management Program at the University of Western Ontario.

Scott McLeod is the Senior Director, Planning, Integration & Community Engagement for the Mississauga Halton LHIN.

A resident of Mississauga, Scott is a well-known and respected manager and facilitator in the Mississauga Halton health sector, having worked in senior administrative positions with the former Halton-Peel District Health Council, and as a Senior Consultant with the health-care consulting firm of Agnew Peckham. In addition to his experience in Ontario, he has also worked as a planner and senior manager in a variety

of health-care settings, including hospitals and regional health-care planning, across Canada. Scott is recognized for having an open, collaborative and results-oriented approach to planning and facilitation. He brings: strong visionary strategic-planning and project-management skills; a commitment to continuous quality improvement; and, recognized skills in communication, negotiation, and consensus-building “facilitative” leadership. Scott has a Masters in Health Administration from the University of Ottawa and a Bachelor of Commerce (Honours) from the University of Manitoba.

Dr. Alex Hukowich has been a board member of the Central East Local Health Integration Network, which coordinates and funds local health services for one of Ontario’s fastest growing regions, since May 2006. Alex has over 30 years of health care experience. Most recently he served as medical officer of health for the Muskoka Parry Sound District Health Unit. Prior to this he was medical officer of health for Haliburton Kawartha Pine Ridge District Health Unit and Porcupine Health Unit. Dr. Hukowich also had his own family medicine practice in South Porcupine for six years. He is an emeritus member of ALPHA’s Council of Ontario Medical Officers of Health, a member of the Canadian and Ontario Medical Associations and a former member of the Rotary Clubs of Timmins and Porcupine.

Currently, Alex is a coroner for the County of Northumberland and a member of the Ontario Advisory Council on Drinking Water Quality and Testing.

Larry O’Connor is the mayor of the Township of Brock, Ontario, and past-president of ALPHA. Larry sits on the Health and Social Services Committee for the Region of Durham where he is a strong advocate for public health. Elected as an MPP for Durham York in 1990, he was appointed Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister Responsible for the Greater Toronto Area. In 1992, Larry received the Commemorative Medal for the 125th Anniversary of the Confederation of Canada in recognition of significant contributions to compatriots, community and to Canada. Also that year, he was appointed Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Health. In that role he had a lead responsibility for the development of Long-Term Care legislation and assisted in committee hearings across the province. He has had the opportunity to work with health units from across the province, as the Ontario Government brought the Tobacco Control Act into a reality. Currently, Larry works at General Motors where he has been an employee since 1979. In his spare time, he is an active volunteer in the community.

Megan Ward is an Associate Medical Officer of Health for the Region of Peel.

Al Northan has been the Medical Officer of Health for Algoma Health Unit since 1992. He has served on the boards of the former Northeastern District Health Council and the former Northern Health Information partnership. He is currently a member of ALPHA’s Board of Directors.