



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Oxford Hospital Joint Services Plan strengthens regional hospitals

At a recent Board meeting, the South West Local Health Integration Network (SW LHIN) approved the recommendations made by the Oxford Hospital Joint Services Plan (OHJSP). This plan is the result of collaboration between Alexandra Hospital Ingersoll (AHI), Tillsonburg District Memorial Hospital (TDMH) and Woodstock Hospital (WH), who recognize the importance of working together to identify areas of integration in order to continue to provide high quality health care close to home for Oxford County residents.

The spirit of the plan ensures that AHI and TDMH continue to support their local residents' needs, while WH serves as a multi-community health care provider for both local and surrounding communities. Each hospital has identified ways to integrate and instigate additional collaboration over the coming years.

Key OHJSP recommendations approved by the SW LHIN are:

In the area of Surgery:

Creation of Centre of Excellence for Cataracts at AHI

Creation of Centre of Excellence for Endoscopy at TDMH

Create Centre of Excellence for Paediatric and Children's Health at WH

Along with all current surgical services, WH will continue to deliver cataract and endoscopy services.

"We welcome the recommendations from the OHJSP because they confirm that there will be no hospital closings," notes Carol Prouse, Chair, AHI Board of Trust. "In fact, the OHJSP ensures the long-term viability of AHI, TDMH and WH to provide health care for our communities."

What does it mean to create Centres of Excellence?

- Individual hospitals have proven to be highly effective and efficient at specialized procedures
- Resources will be focused on a specific procedure, at a specific location
- Highly specialized skills will produce the very best outcomes, all with greatest cost efficiency
- People from surrounding communities will be encouraged to utilize the Centres for specific procedures
- There is more opportunity to improve the quality of care and ensure health care services in Oxford County are second to none

In regard to Continuing Care Beds:

The OHJSP recommended decreasing CCC beds by six at TDMH and nine at AHI. With the implementation of the Province's Home First program, where patients are discharged with the appropriate level of care, some Complex Continuing Care (CCC) were no longer being fully utilized.

"The three hospitals entered into this initiative with the intention of finding ways to work together to provide the highest quality care as close to home as possible, without wasting precious funding. They have done an exemplary job of identifying efficiencies and eliminating redundancies," states TDMH Board of Directors Chair, Duaine Nelson.

The OHJSP was the result of equal input from each hospital. Six Working Groups were established to examine each priority area. Working Groups were comprised of Board, management and staff representatives from each of the three hospitals, as well as key external stakeholders. Additional OHJSP recommendations for integration included Laboratory Services, Mental Health and Addiction Services, and Paediatric and Children's Health. These were also approved by the South West LHIN.

"Through collaboration, the three hospitals have developed a plan that is focused on conserving a sustainable, quality health care system for the people of Oxford County," notes Wilma Boughtflower, Chair, WH Board of Trust. "Together, we will continue to advocate on behalf of our patients and their families, while delivering compassionate care to our community."

The Boards and administrative leadership of the three hospitals are committed to implementing these recommendations, while continuing to provide the best possible care to the residents of Oxford County.

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