

SOUTH WEST LHIN AND THREE AREA HOSPITALS ANNOUNCE PROCESS TO FINALIZE SERVICE ACCOUNTABILITY AGREEMENTS

NEWS

September 08, 2008

LONDON, ON -- The South West LHIN today announced the appointment of external reviewers to work with senior management at three area hospitals. The reviewers will work with hospital management to develop plans to balance hospital operations leading to approved service accountability agreements.

All Ontario hospitals are required by provincial legislation to sign a Hospital Service Accountability Agreement (H-SAA) that has a balanced financial operating position. Of the twenty hospital corporations in the South West LHIN, 17 have signed H-SAAs for the next two fiscal years. The negotiation period for the three remaining hospitals was extended by the South West LHIN Board so collaborative solutions could be developed. Hospital management will now have third-party expertise (external reviewers) to help them develop a plan to achieve a balanced operating position.

The external reviewers are:

- Grey Bruce Health Services - Michael O'Keefe
- Strathroy Middlesex General Hospital - Michael O'Keefe
- Woodstock General Hospital - John Oliver

(See background below for further information on each reviewer)

The timeline for the review process is as follows:

1. The reviewers will begin work the week of September 8, 2008.
2. The hospital board will consider for approval the planning documents for 2008-10 agreements by November 15, 2008.
3. The South West LHIN board will consider for approval the H-SAAs at its meeting on November 26, 2008, at which time the details of the agreements will be made public.

Once approved by the LHIN board, the agreements will be in force until March 31, 2010.

QUOTES

"We are glad we are able to move forward on these agreements in partnership with the hospitals," said Norm Gamble, Chair, South West LHIN Board of Directors. "Everyone is committed to a sustainable, integrated health care system in the South West"

"We are very pleased that such high calibre healthcare executives with tremendous experience in hospital management are able to step forward and work together with our hospital partners to find solutions," said Michael Barrett, Acting Chief Executive Officer, South West LHIN. "It is important that

we take a collaborative approach, so we can finalize an agreement that all parties can use to move forward."

QUICK FACTS

- The 2008-2010 Hospital Service Accountability Agreement (H-SAA) process marks the first hospital budget negotiation between Ontario's 14 LHINs and hospitals. Hospitals are required to balance their budgets under the Local Health System Integration Act, 2006. Signed by the boards of directors of all hospitals and their LHIN, H-SAAs hold hospitals accountable for operating within a balanced budget and maintaining agreed upon service levels.
- Ontario's LHINs have an accountability agreement with the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care. For information on the South West LHIN's Ministry-LHIN Accountability Agreement, visit the "Accountability" section under "About our LHIN" at www.southwestlhin.on.ca

BACKGROUND

John Oliver

John Oliver is President and CEO of Halton Healthcare Services, which includes the Georgetown Hospital, the Milton District Hospital and the Oakville-Trafalgar Memorial Hospital. Prior to the amalgamation of these three hospitals, he was the President and CEO of Oakville-Trafalgar Memorial Hospital. John recently took a one-year secondment to join the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care as an Assistant Deputy Minister.

John received his Bachelor of Commerce from McMaster University and his Master of Health Science Administration from the University of Toronto. He is a Chartered Accountant with the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Ontario, a Certified Health Executive with the Canadian College of Health Service Executives, and a Member of the American College of Healthcare Executives. He is currently the Chair of the Board of Directors of Shared Services West and the Co-Chair of the MRP Funding Working Group. John is a former Chair of the Cardiac Care Network of Ontario, Chair of the Halton-Peel District Health Council and Chair of the Reference Group on Hospital & Physician Issues.

Michael O'Keefe

Michael O'Keefe has over 30 years of leadership experience in health care management with organizations across Canada and internationally. Michael is currently Senior Advisor to the Pan Canadian Medical School Alliance and his past experience includes interim President and CEO of Orillia Soldiers Memorial Hospital, Chairman of Canadian Hospitals Network International, President and CEO of Interhealth Canada Limited, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of The Toronto Hospital, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of Ottawa Civic Hospital, President and CEO of York-Finch General Hospital and international health care experience from the Middle East and U.K.

Michael has a Master of Hospital Administration degree from the University of Toronto. As well, he is on the Governance and Leadership Council of the Ontario Hospital Association, a director of Alegro Health and the International Advisory Committee of the Hospital for Sick Children. Michael is a past Chair of the Toronto District Health Council, a past Director of the Ontario Hospital Association, the Toronto Community Foundation and the Toronto Central LHIN.

LEARN MORE

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The South West Local Health Integration Network (LHIN) is a crown agency responsible for planning, integrating and funding more than 150 health service providers, including hospitals, long-term care homes, mental health and addictions agencies, community support services, community health centres, and the South West CCAC. Established under the Local Health System Integration Act, 2006, as one of 14 LHINs across Ontario, the South West LHIN operates an annual health care budget of \$1.8 billion. The South West LHIN covers an area from Lake Erie to the Bruce Peninsula and is home to almost one million people.