

The LWHA Board addressed the following topics:

- Huron Perth and Area Ontario Health Team – collaboration agreement. Feedback provided on addressing intellectual property.
- Fisher Family Primary Care Clinic expansion – the Board suggested a number of options to expand the Clinic beyond the proposal prepared by the architects.
- The LWHA Board extended the timeline of the current strategic plan by one year to 2023.
- Agreed on a process to provide feedback to Board members on their performance.

Cultivating quality care that is patient centred, timely, efficient, effective, equitable and safe.

System Capacity and Planning

Acute care and ICU capacity in the south west have improved over the course of the past month. Overall occupancy does remain high in south west hospitals. Based on modelling prepared at University of Western Ontario, the recent reduction in pandemic restrictions may result in a 6th wave of COVID patients in hospital. There has been a notable movement of patients from hospital to long term care in the past month.

Directive #2

The Chief Medical Officer of Health has revoked Directive #2, which has allowed hospitals to resume surgical and ambulatory care services that have been on hold since early January. There remain some limits on surgical volumes and an expectation that hospitals accept the transfer of patients in order to support the overall needs of the health system. The surgical backlog is extensive and the current relaxation of restrictions doesn't allow most hospitals to keep up with current demand. Thank you to the LWHA Operating Room and Ambulatory Care staff who were redeployed to other areas of the hospital to assist with patient care.

A requirement to seek patient consent for interfacility transfers is a contentious issue.

Police Hospital Transition Protocol

The Ontario Provincial Police continue to have a strong interest in having a formal police hospital transition protocol agreement in place for the purpose of improving outcomes for individuals that have been apprehended by police officers under the Mental Health Act. The role of our local Schedule 1 hospitals (designated psychiatric facility under the Mental Health Act) in Stratford and Goderich has also been part of the conversation.

Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) Proposals

Ontario Health had a couple of follow-up questions on the submitted MRI proposal. We were

also able to provide a strong letter of support from the radiology group that we anticipate will provide radiologist support for the service. In addition, we had a positive meeting with Fanshawe College regarding their MRI program which allows students to continue work while obtaining MRI certification. There remains a reasonably strong possibility that an MRI will be approved for rural southwestern Ontario and LWHA has submitted a strong business case in support of Wingham.

Support Services

An engineering firm has been issued a PO to start the engineering of the negative air rooms in both the Listowel and the Wingham Emergency Departments.

The Wingham Palliative renovations are 95% complete. This project is waiting on the window glass and furniture to arrive. The X-ray renovations have started and will continue over the next 4 months in 5 different stages. The window replacement project has started. Some of the windows being replaced are patient room windows, as well as, the sun room on 1st floor. The wood door replacement project is starting soon which includes over 175 doors. This will replace all patient room doors with a steel door, as well as, many other wood doors throughout the facility.

In Listowel, the Information Technology Manager's office is complete. The Environmental Services and washroom area by Diagnostic Imaging affected by water damage has been fixed. The sleep room by the Environmental Services area is complete. The painting and patching in the north wing on first floor has started. Planning is underway to convert the 2nd floor conference room into 2 offices and a storage space.

Cultivating a workplace that nurtures individual and collective potential.

Leadership Portfolios

Due to the ongoing vacancy of the Financial Reporting Coordinator role, Sheri DiGiovanni, Manager of Diagnostics and Pharmacy and Steve Baxter, Manager of Facilities and Environmental Services will report to Karl Ellis on an interim basis in order to allow Barbara Major-McEwan to focus on finances.

COVID Vaccination – 3rd Dose

Our most recent reported 3rd dose COVID vaccination rates for staff and physicians across LWHA are less than 40%. Vaccination fatigue and underreporting of vaccination status are cited as the primary reasons.

Influenza Vaccination Rates

Our 2021 influenza vaccination rates have been finalized and we have seen a decrease in uptake compared to last year. While this is disappointing it is not surprising. Staff have received multiple vaccines this year for COVID-19 and there has been well documented evidence that overall influenza activity is down throughout the province.

YEAR	LMH	WDH
2020	87%	80%
2021	81.9%	70.5%

Clinical Nurse Lead Oncology

The Clinical Leadership Team has completed a review of nursing leadership throughout the alliance and has determined that the Wingham Oncology program will benefit from the addition of a Clinical Nurse Lead. This position plays a key role in supporting staff, physicians and patients. They act as a resource and advocate for care. This position will be posted internally.

Cultivating a sustainable and resilient environment that is here for future generations.

Hospital Infrastructure Renewal Funding

The Ministry of Health has taken an unusual step and offered the possibility of approving the extension of Hospital Infrastructure Renewal Funding beyond the fiscal year end of March 31st. Many hospitals were not able to complete projects due to supply chain issues and contractor availability. While not granted yet, this possible extension is good news for LWHA as we had some projects with timing risk including the replacement of the Wingham generator.

Diagnostic Imaging

LMH is looking forward to the replacement of the mammography unit in March. Negotiations are ongoing with a group of radiologists in order to have continuing radiologist support beyond the volume of exams manageable by Dr. Erenberg.

Draft 22/23 Operating Budgets

The draft 22/23 Operating budgets continue to be under review for both revenue and expenses. On Feb 14th we received notice that the benefits will be increasing for both hospitals which we are still assessing how this will impact both budgets.

Cultivating partnerships to offer a seamless patient experience.


Inter Hospital Laboratory Partnership

Effort continues in order to bring South Bruce Grey Health Centre (SBGHC) into the Inter Hospital Laboratory Partnership (IHLP). With the addition of SBGHC, there will be 16 hospitals partnering in shared lab services. A new Laboratory Director has been hired and changes made to the staffing structure and partnership agreement to accommodate the additional hospitals.

Huron Perth and Area Ontario Health Team (HPOHT)

Joint Accreditation

A total of 15 organizations have expressed interest in participating in the HP OHT accreditation



including all hospitals with the exception of South Huron Hospital Association. The survey is anticipated in 2023. LWHA is prepared to participate provided Accreditation Canada undertakes a 'light' review of LWHA given our recent successful accreditation result. The primary advantage of working together on Accreditation is a focus on the patient from a health system perspective rather than organizational perspective. Assuming a positive outcome, participating in the joint accreditation would result in extending our accreditation status to 2027. One downside is that a joint accreditation is unlikely to result in Exemplary Standing.

HP OHT Initiatives

- Huron County Discrimination Study Presentation
- Digital Advisory Group working on on-line appointment booking for primary care
- Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Survey
- Received funding for Mobile Assessment Team for congregate living settings.

COVID-19 Testing Centre

For the last several weeks the testing centre has seen a significant decrease in the amount of appointment bookings with an average of 21 swabs a day. This has allowed for testing centre staff to be periodically be redeployed to inpatient care at the Listowel Site. The testing centre team is monitoring activity closely to ensure that they have the right schedule and hours available to service our community.

Chief Nursing Executive (CNE) Meeting

The South West CNEs met February 11th for our scheduled quarterly meeting. This committee provides an opportunity for all SW CNE's to work in partnership on nursing practice and operational initiatives. This committee is reviewing regional nursing priorities and will be developing a workplan for the coming year.