

Board Education

Representatives from Ontario Health, including Dr. David Kaplan, Vice President Quality provided the board with a summary of the Ontario Health quality program. The program is currently grounded in the Quadruple Aim:

- Better patient outcomes
- Lower cost
- Improving Population Health
- Improving provider experience

There is an intention to add a fifth dimension to address health equity.

Wingham and District Hospital Foundation

Representatives of the Wingham and District Hospital Foundation presented the annual donation to the Hospital totaling over \$870,000. Over the life of the Foundation, the hospital has received over \$10 million of support. Donations this year funded an Automated refurbishment, replacement of 100% of OR scopes, palliative care suite and xray renovations amongst other items.

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

COVID Predictions

Recent predictions forecast the 6th wave of COVID to result in similar acute care occupancy levels to those experienced in late January and early February. The peak is anticipated in early/mid May. During the previous peak, hospitals ceased surgeries and ambulatory care services following provincial orders in order to have enough staff to care for the influx. We are also experiencing more staff illness and absence than at any other time period of the pandemic. The combination of fewer staff available and increased patient numbers has been a concern.

Complex Continuing Care (CCC) Outbreak Debrief

A debrief was held April 7th to review the recent COVID-19 outbreak at the Listowel Site. Members from the outbreak management team were invited to attend and bring feedback from their respective groups/departments. The goal of the debrief was to review decisions made, outcomes, encourage reflection and to incorporate improvement opportunities into our next outbreak response. In terms of follow up, we will be looking at standardizing expectations for outbreak communications and notifications as well as investigating opportunities for Environmental Services support and workflow.

Electronic Nursing Documentation Update

We will be expanding our electronic physician documentation footprint to include daily progress notes within OneChart among Providers in inpatient areas between now and June 30, 2022. Multiple physicians across both sites have already started to use this feature.

Early warning sign alerts for nurses is a new feature that will be going live during the month of April. The intention of the Sepsis and Early Warning Alerts module is to notify the nurse when a pattern of clinical information needs further investigation. Nurses are expected to assess their patient(s) and validate the alerts received.

Cultivating a workplace that nurtures individual and collective potential.

Health Human Resources

Almost any health care related meeting or forum results in a conversation about the severe shortage of health human resources. This challenge reaches across all sectors including hospital, home and community care and long term care. The Listowel Wingham Hospitals Alliance is not immune to this and our staff are tired of the pandemic and workload as we head into a 6th wave. Our staff have been exceptional at responding to the need to work beyond their typical commitment and they are deserving of our gratitude and the thanks of our communities.

Nurses Week

May 9 - 15 is National Nurses' Week. Nurses at both sites plan a number of fun activities for all staff to take part in. In honour of our nurses, the Leadership Team will be organizing a food truck break for all staff consisting of specialty doughnuts and coffee. RBC has also graciously offered to help support this initiative. Our nurses and staff have gone above and beyond throughout this pandemic and we appreciate RBC recognizing them for their contributions to health care in our community.

COVID-related initiatives and practices

Both sites continue to experience COVID related absences. As of April 19th there have been a total of 117 positive staff members, 36 who required self-isolation and 38 who returned to work under work isolation.

On March 25th, the Ministry of Health announced the Emergency Orders issued under the Reopening of Ontario Act, which permitted Hospitals to hire additional temporary employees, will expire April 27, 2022.

Health and Safety / Emergency Response

The Ministry of Labour was onsite in Listowel April 1st in follow-up to the recent COVID-19 outbreak on the Complex Continuing Care unit. The inspector completed a tour of the hospital with representatives from the Leadership team and a Joint Health and Safety employee

representative. The focus was to ensure appropriate measures and procedures are in place to protect employees to address current hazards in the workplace. The Ministry of Labour inspector was satisfied with the safety measures in place and there were no further actions required.

A review of LWHA's Code Black policy (bomb or suspicious package) was recently completed and refresher training was circulated to all staff as a proactive measure due to a recent bomb threat at a neighbouring hospital.

Recruitment

With recruitment continuing to be a primary focus, it's important to highlight Listowel has secured 5 Registered Nurses, 3 are previous students, with Wingham securing 3 new registered nurses all of which are previous students.

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

Fisher Clinic

A number of the members of the committee working on the proposed addition to the Fisher Clinic expressed frustration at the recent drawings presented by architects. While it was explained that the information presented is part of the standard architectural process and would have been a disservice to not bring the information forward, the committee is looking for more granular detail at this point in the process. Clear expectations were established for the next meeting with architects.

Provincial Hospital Funding

The Ontario Budget is scheduled to be released on April 28th, however is unlikely to be passed before the election writ. Based on comments from the Minister of Health and the Ontario Health Association, it is expected that hospitals will receive a minimum 2% increase in operational funding.

Hospital Improvements

The engineering firm came back with 2 different options for the Negative Pressure Rooms in the ERs at both sites. Options have been presented to managers of both departments and they will be asking staff for feedback.

The Wingham Palliative renovations are complete.

Physician Services Agreement

A new physician services agreement between the Province and the Ontario Medical Association was ratified in late March. The agreement supported virtual care services provided by video and telephone and increased the number of physicians able to join group primary care practices each year. The hospital and physicians are reviewing the Hospital On-Call Coverage provisions

to determine if there are opportunities to expand funding for on-call coverage.

LMH Capital Proposal

Advocacy continues with Ontario Health in order to get feedback on the major LMH capital project proposal submitted in December.

Operating Budgets

Operating budgets were approved for both Listowel and Wingham.

Listowel has budgeted a small surplus of \$97,066 and expects an additional 1% funding which will result in a projected surplus of \$254,035.

Wingham has budgeted a deficit of \$318,554 and also expects an additional 1% funding resulting in a deficit of \$180,835. Wingham has budgeted one-time legal fees of \$85,000 to defend historical legal claims for which insurance coverage is not currently secured.

A thorough review of contracts, revenue opportunity and expense allocations between sites will occur.

A Hospital Infrastructure Renewal Fund (HIRF) application was submitted for the WDH Generator (\$398,600) and the LMH Heating Ventilation Air Conditioning 22/23 phase 1 (\$863,683.)

Compensation

The Ontario government has recently announced all Registered Nurses and Registered Practical Nurses will receive a Nursing Retention Incentive to a maximum of \$5000 per nurse. Once implementation details have been finalized LWHA will process payments according to the applicable guidance documents.

Cultivating partnerships to offer a seamless patient experience.

Township of North Huron

The Township of North Huron would like to utilize space at Royal Oaks for a municipal council chamber. They anticipate using 2 classrooms in return for contributions towards the facility operating costs. Without the support of the Township through the purchase process, Our Hospital, Our Future Capital Campaign and municipal tax relief, we would not be in a position to own the facility.

A proposed bylaw for the Township of North Huron will designate the portion of Catharine Street between the hospital and Royal Oaks property, as a no-parking zone.

The municipal water tower adjacent to the main hospital parking is scheduled for replacement. This will impact hospital parking during the project.



Choices for Change and United Way

Choices for Change and the United Way Perth Huron continue to have interest in the Royal Oaks facility to house the North Huron Connection Centre. When established, the Centre will be a welcoming, safe space for the community's most vulnerable citizens to rest, access basic needs, healthcare services, identification assistance and more.

Meetings with MPPs

Our local MPPs, Lisa Thompson and Randy Pettapiece were both very open to hearing about the issues and challenges within the health care system at recent meetings. The conversations covered many topics and focused time was spent on the health human resources challenges, capital developments, MRI proposal, legislated wage restrictions and service closures.

Huron Perth and Area Ontario Health Team (HPOHT)

The HP OHT is currently undertaking a strategic planning exercise. Anyone interested is welcome to participate.