

Foundation Support

The Wingham and District Hospital Foundation presented a cheque for \$478,439 in support of equipment purchases in 2022/23. This funding supported replacement of the IV Pumps, Central Cardiac Monitor upgrades, centrifuge and new Med Carts amongst other items. This funding included \$19,362 raised by the Wingham Hospital Auxiliary.

Board Education

The Huron Perth Crisis Program outlined the services available within Huron and Perth:

- The Huron Perth Helpline & Crisis Response Team offers crisis assessments, brief crisis therapy, education regarding mental health and addiction services, and treatment referrals.
- The Mobile Crisis Rapid Response Team (MCRRT) works in combination with Police Partners including Stratford Police Service and Huron OPP and Perth OPP to provide immediate on-site assessment with police, of a person in crisis.
- The community based Transition Bed Program is a service offered to briefly house individuals over 18 who are experiencing mental health and addiction issues, and are currently in crisis, potentially homeless, or have current involvement with the justice system, and can be safely supported in the community.

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

Electronic Health Record Project– One Chart Update

We are starting preparations for the next phase of our electronic health record project. The regional team leading this work is located in London and working out of LHSC. We are anticipating formal regional planning to start in September with projects starting to go-live in January.

Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC) Training

IPAC Canada offers Canadian Standards Association (CSA) training on a number of IPAC priorities. Construction, renovation and building maintenance is a high-risk area as it relates to IPAC. Deirdre Woodward, IPAC Coordinator, will be taking this construction-based CSA training during the month of April. We have a number of internal projects coming up where this knowledge and expertise will be required.

COVID-19 Restrictions

The Public Health Agency of Ontario has updated a number of guidance documents that support hospitals with the management of COVID-19. Updates include changes to decision making related to levels of risk and masking in hospital for staff/physicians, patients and visitors. The southwest regional hospitals are working together to move forward with these changes in unison. Hospitals started lifting masking restrictions in certain areas of the hospitals in late April.

Mammography and Work-up Backlog

The pandemic, combined with the replacement of our mammography equipment, has resulted in a backlog of both screening mammography exams and subsequent workup appointments for patients with imaging anomalies. We have plans to hire additional imaging staff and create additional evening and weekend appointments in order to address the backlog.

Laboratory Accreditation

In late March our laboratories and collection centre participated in the Ontario Laboratory Accreditation peer assessment. Our laboratories have had significant staffing pressures recently and performed exceptionally well on the review. The most significant finding by the accreditors was the utilization of some simple point of care tests within the ER without sufficient laboratory oversight of the process and testing. These tests have been removed from ER.

Cultivating a workplace that nurtures individual and collective potential.

Clinical Nurse Extern Update

We are excited to have the Clinical Nurse Externs start later this month. The group will be attending corporate orientation April 28, attending an in-class skills day May 1 and departmental orientation running from May 2 to May 18 with booked shifts starting May 19.

Nursing Scheduling Update

Summer vacation requests are being finalized. Once this is complete the schedules will be drafted, finalized and posted by the end of April. We will then have a clearer understanding of current staffing risks. Wingham ER staffing is particularly strained at this time due to vacancies and long-term leaves.

Barbara Major-McEwan

Barbara Major-McEwan has accepted the Executive Director's position at the Clinton Family Health Team (CFHT). She has also enrolled in The Director's College program at McMaster University with the goal of completing the Chartered Director Program in Board Governance. The last 4 years have included many challenges within health care and in particular LWHA. Barb was thanked for her dedication and leadership through this period. Rebecca Bloemberg will be assuming leadership of the finance and support services portfolio at LWHA.

Leadership Vacancies

We currently have 2 leaders on temporary leave and 2 additional leadership vacancies as the incumbents transition from their current roles following a promotion. We also have a number of other key support staff off on leave. While short-term, this situation has increased the workload and stress levels significantly for a number of staff and leaders. We are particularly thankful for the front line staff that are providing additional support to their departments and peer staff during the absence of their leader.

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

Hospital Services Accountability Agreement (HSAA)

Despite the tabling of a provincial budget a few weeks ago, there have been no changes in the budgeted funding for our hospitals. Ontario Health is anxious to get the HSAA documents signed and most hospitals are hesitant to sign given the uncertainty regarding funding levels. We recently signed a 3 month extension to our previous agreement. Ontario Health has indicated they will not be seeking Performance Improvement Plans from hospitals until final funding levels are known.

Hospitals across the province were projecting significant deficits to end the year. There are coordinated efforts to account for the impact of Bill 124 in a consistent way. There is also advocacy by the Ontario Hospital Association to have the province fund both retroactive and go-forward costs related to Bill 124.

Heating Ventilation and Air Conditioning

During the demolition phase of the LMH HVAC project, it was discovered that the current north wing of the hospital was built around the old 3 story residence that once served as a Hospital. While it has been interesting to see the style of construction, wooden framing and brickwork utilized in the historical construction, we have yet to see the estimated cost impact of the required demolition. The construction time is expected to be extended by a week. This 17 week project will include installing all new duct work in the area to allow for improved

patient comfort.

Sarah Avenue Renovations

LWHA Sarah Ave Outpatient project started April 10th and is expected to be complete by the end of May potentially ahead of schedule. We are very thankful to the Mental Health Matters team and the Small Talk Team for making the successful moves on the 2nd floor of the building to allow for the renovation to begin.

Education Budgets and Funding

The education actual draft full year spend to March 31 in LMH is \$36,528 to an annual budget of \$56,425 and WDH is \$25,123 to annual budget of \$59,574. The expectation for 23-24 with COVID behind us and with Tori Ducharme in place is that we will fully utilize our education budgets going forward.

Cultivating partnerships to offer a seamless patient experience.

Huron Perth Healthcare Alliance (HPHA) Shadow Opportunity

Our IPAC coordinator shadowed the Huron Perth Health Alliance IPAC team at Stratford General Hospital during a Medical Devices and Reprocessing Department endoscope audit. This was a great learning opportunity and we will be incorporating these learnings into our own audits later this spring. The audits are completed according to the IPAC CSA Standards and are required to be done annually.

The North Huron North Perth Family Health Team (NHNPFHT) and Mental Health Support

The NPNHFHT received some one-time funding for mental health services. As a result, the FHT has graciously decided to donate/transfer some funds to LWHA for our outpatient social work program. In partnership with the NPNHFHT we decided that the funds will be used to help the program's outpatient population with costly essential products like diapers, baby formal, feminine hygiene products and adult incontinent pads. We want to acknowledge and thank Robin and her team for this support.

Visiting Specialists – Wingham Operation Room

After many years of supporting the Wingham OR, Dr. Di Labio, a visiting surgeon, is slowing down his practice and giving up his Wingham OR time. We are excited to have two new visiting surgeons joining our team in June. These two surgeons will share the OR time that was used by Dr. Di Labio.

Local Municipal Leaders

Meetings have taken place recently in each of Listowel and Wingham with area municipal leaders to discuss health care and other topics of mutual interest. These include:

- Long Term Care Capacity

-
- Ontario Health
 - Huron Perth Ontario Health Team
 - Physician Recruitment
 - ER Closures
 - Hospital Governance
 - Listowel Wingham and Area Family Health Team
 - Hospital Capital Projects, CT, MRI
 - Health Human Resources and Recruitment

The Wingham group have particular interest in regional ER planning, physician recruitment and long term care. They are supportive of the hospital and would like to work cooperatively on these topics in the year ahead.

Huron Perth Healthcare Alliance

A large group of LWHA staff and leaders participated in a meeting with representatives from the Huron Perth Healthcare Alliance (HPHA) as they explore the option of utilizing London's Cerner installation for their patient electronic medical record. Their current Meditech system is well beyond its expected service life. Having HPHA as part of the regional hospital information system collaborative would greatly reduce the exchange of paper records and a number of electronic interfaces that currently exist. There are benefits and pitfalls to all of the hospital based systems, however, it would be a great advantage to LWHA and the other Huron Perth and Area Ontario Health Team members to have all of the Huron Perth hospitals on the same system.