



Board of Directors

Highlights

March 2023

Enriching life's journey together.

Board Education

Erin Donald of the Huron Hospice provided the board with a very informative education session on hospice and palliative care.

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

High Alert Medications

Recently our clinical and pharmacy teams reviewed and updated our High Alert Medications Policy. High Alert Medications are those that bear a heightened risk of causing significant patient harm when they are used in error. This review also included an update to safety precautions within our electronic health record. When high alert medications are being administered they require an independent double check by another colleague/regulated health professional.

Wingham Rehab Program

The Wingham Rehab team is undertaking a quality improvement project focused on preventing delirium in hospital. The project will be focused on stimulating the mind, promoting physical activity, relaxation and rest, ensuring patients can see and hear and are hydrated and nourished. Initial projects include communal dining and early mobilization for patients who can ambulate.

MRI Project

We remain hopeful that we can utilize an existing contract at Healthcare Materials Management Services (HMMS) for our MRI purchase.

Cultivating a workplace that nurtures individual and collective potential.

Health and Safety / Emergency Response

Safety and Security continues to be a focus for LWHA with many enhancements being completed and underway which are supported by both the LMH and WDH Joint Health & Safety Committees as well as the LWHA Operations Quality Committee.

Recruitment

There was a great response to the recent Clinical Extern postings. We anticipate a total of 12 nursing students (6 for each site) joining LWHA effective April 28th. The Clinical Nursing Externs will be in addition to our base staffing models and we believe this program will enable us to support our front-line nursing staff and will serve as a significant part of our nursing recruitment strategy moving forward.

Modified Nursing Skills Day

For the last several years we have hosted two nursing skills days a year. The educational sessions offered the hospital and our nurses an opportunity to practice and learn new skills as well as complete other important education and learning. Over the pandemic we have been unable to offer the traditional skills day due to the staffing constraints. This spring we will be offering a modified skills day that includes virtual and paper based learning. We plan to return to in person skills days later this year.

Nursing Orientation

One major priority that the clinical team is working on is nursing orientation for new hires. We are in the midst of completing an evaluation of what we currently have in place. One component of this evaluation was a nursing staff survey where we asked how orientation could be improved for new hires but also how we could improve how orientation is supported by our current staff. Tori Ducharme will be leading this work and plans to have it completed this summer.

Recognition

Dr. Vander Klippe was recognized for his leadership and continued focus on supporting a culture that supports quality care and a safe environment for staff and patients.

Physician Recruitment

The local physician recruitment efforts are funded through a combination of municipal, foundation, family health team and hospital contributions. Occasional donations are also received. Each hospital corporation has contributed \$20,000 of funding towards the recruitment effort this fiscal year. In addition to in kind support of the recruitment effort, we provide housing to medical learners and locums spending time in our communities. In Wingham, there are two small bungalows behind the hospital which are owned and maintained by the hospital. In Listowel we own a house adjacent to the paid parking lot and rent an apartment at Elizabeth and Livingstone streets. We currently also utilize the house at the corner of Inkerman and Sarah Ave for housing. This will be demolished as part of the Fisher Clinic expansion. Additional housing may be required as part of establishing a residency

program.

Support Services

We have a number of significant projects underway and contemplated at LWHA including:

- Wingham MRI
- Fisher Clinic expansion
- LMH Heating and Air Conditioning
- Future WDH lab renovation
- CT proposal for Wingham
- Office 365 implementation
- New IV Pumps
- WDH Generator
- Removing LMH Underground fuel tanks
- One Chart Expansion

This will result in the need to dedicate time, money and people to these significant projects. Rather than look to external consultants, we have assigned members of our existing leadership team to support this work. A Manager of Support Service position has been created to provide leadership to Nutrition and Food Services, Environmental Services and Registration. In order to finance this position, a portion of existing leadership time will be dedicated to and funded by the capital projects noted. This is more cost effective than paying for external consulting and project support.

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

Wingham and District Hospital Foundation

We are excited and pleased to receive a cheque in March from the WDH Foundation for \$468,274. Funding support includes the IV Pumps, Central Cardiac Monitor, Med Carts and other smaller items. This certainly supports our focus on improved patient care!

Financial Results

Both LMH and WDH are showing a surplus YTD February (\$159,929 and \$108,000 respectively).

We still do not have an approved budget for 23-24. We have responded to Ontario Health

regarding any questions they have. The questions were focused around inflation and efforts we are making to reduce OT, sick time and meeting our targets in Ambulatory Care, Complex Continuing Care in Listowel and Emergency Department, Rehabilitation in WDH. The information has now gone to the provincial level and we have had no additional information regarding any changes required.

Supply Chain Delays and Price Inflation

We have all experienced and are well aware of the impact of recent supply chain delays and price inflation. Pricing estimates for hospital capital budgets can sometimes be compiled close to 2 years before the actual purchase is contracted. This was rarely a problem in a low inflation environment, however, we are currently experiencing significant inflationary pressures on both capital equipment and operating supply purchases. This can also create challenges for our Foundations and Auxiliaries that have been raising funds for equipment that have purchase prices significantly higher than anticipated.

Cultivating partnerships to offer a seamless patient experience.

Regional Projects and Initiatives

We continue to work with Health Information Systems (HIS) on the IV Pumps RFP. We will be joining a subcommittee to help in the final negotiations.


The 3M Project is well underway for implementation April 1, 2023 and will be replacing the Med2020 software coding system in each of our health records departments.

The Phase 2 Wave 1 One Chart planning is currently underway for a potential kickoff in September 2023

We are working through the relocation of the Mental Health Matters, Infant Hearing and the Small Talk groups in the Outpatient Building at Sarah Ave. We truly appreciate the support that all groups have given as we determine how best to kick off this renovation of the 1st floor project.

Patient Visiting

We recently reviewed our patient visiting policy and made some changes based on feedback we have received from our patients, staff and physicians. COVID-19 positive patients or patients who have pending COVID-19 results will now be permitted visitors. While we would not encourage visiting sick COVID patients, we strongly believe that our communities are able



to assess their own risk when it comes to COVID-19.

South West Regional Cancer Program Consultations

The South West Regional Cancer Program oversees the quality and delivery of cancer services and the London Health Sciences Centre (LHSC) is the regional cancer centre serving residents within the South West region of Ontario. Recently, consultants from across Canada were engaged by LHSC to undertake a broad review of the program and its operations. We were optimistic that these conversations would be the start of a more regionally focused program that balanced patient volumes and care across the entire region.

Huron Perth and Area Ontario Health Team

The Huron Perth and Area Ontario Health Team is finalizing its strategic plan for the next 3 years. The plan is extremely ambitious. Once finalized, the plan will be broadly shared and LWHA will assess how to best support and be supported by the various initiatives outlined.