



Board of Directors Meeting Highlights September, 2024

Enriching life's journey together.

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

LMH Fire Update from May 28, 2024

Recovery from the fire in May has now been completed and on July 16, the second-floor patient care space was back to normal operations. Many thanks to our operations team for getting the restoration and cleaning work done so quickly – the unit was returned to perfect condition. Thanks also to our patient care teams for their patience and support in getting the department ready and organized for patient care. The fire system has been completely retested again to ensure that no residual items remain and daily safety meetings are being held with the contractor.

Health and Safety / Emergency Response

Under the Joint Occupational Health and Safety Act and the Fire code, LWHA has a legislative requirement to complete an annual Code Red (Fire) training exercise in collaboration with the Fire Department to ensure staff can identify and safely evacuate patients from the hot room within 1 minute and 45 seconds. The exercise is to be completed as if a fire was to take place during the middle of the night with reduced staffing being on site. The Huron North Fire Chief attended the Wingham site September 3rd to assess staff's response and monitor the evacuation timelines. Our team did a great job of evacuating patients from the fire room in 1 minute 5 secs and zone evacuation in 7 minutes. The representatives had very positive feedback for our team that our staff did the exercise calmly and within the required timeline, and they have confidence in our staffs' response during the Code Red and evacuation sequence. Due to the recent fire at the Listowel site, the North Perth Fire Official has advised the recent evacuation of the hospital meets the requirement for the annual exercise for 2024.

HVAC LMH

The HVAC project at LMH continues. We are in the process of finishing up the Phase 2 HVAC project which includes the 2nd floor north wing. We are anticipating mid-October completion for this phase of the project and are eager to hand this space back over to clinical. Phase 4 or the admin area phase started on August 29th, and we anticipate it will be done in April 2025.

Fisher Clinic Expansion

The Fisher project continues and is on track. We will access financing closer to the end of the project after we work through our hospital commitment of \$1.5M and the foundation commitment of \$4.0M.



CT Project WDH

The CT Project team is in the final phase of negotiations which are set for September 20th. We still anticipate a July 2025 start up.

Essential Care Partner Program

LWHA is working to implement an essential care partner program. We know that we have a lot to learn from patients and their care givers when it comes to discharge planning and setting patients up for success. This program will offer family and caregivers an opportunity to educate staff on patient care routines at home and learning opportunities for discharge planning. We had our kickoff meeting in July and had a patient and caregiver attend. This team will plan and implement the program over the coming months.

Listowel Obstetrical (OB) Department Reopening

We are very happy to confirm that our department is reopening its doors on September 16. As part of our reopening strategy the department's name is being changed to the Listowel Family Birthing Centre. This name represents a fresh start and better characterizes the comprehensive services our program has to offer no matter what your family may look like.

Ontario Breast Screening Program

The Ontario Breast Screening Program will expand effective October 8, 2024. The Program is encouraging people ages 40 to 49 to have a conversation with their primary care provider or a Health811 navigator to discuss their personal risk for breast cancer, the potential benefits and potential harms of breast cancer screening and what matters most to them in taking care of their health. To prepare for an increase in volumes, the program has reviewed its processes, protocols, patient flows and staffing to ensure timely access to services and follow up. These changes have enabled the program to decrease the time from screening to tissue biopsy by almost 50% and is well within the Ontario Breast Screening Program target of 7 weeks. Going forward, the department will monitor wait times closely to sustain these improvements.

A workplace that nurtures individual and collective potential.

Physician Recruitment

Physician recruitment continues to be an area of focus moving into the fall. LWHA has met with both the Listowel and Wingham Physician Recruitment Committees. The committees have created Terms of Reference to guide the work and established subcommittees to review incentive packages and housing options for our potential recruits. An updated budget to support the incentive packages and the work of the committee is under development. An 18-month workplan will be presented to the committees along with metrics identified to measure



the success of the various strategies adopted.

A sustainable and resilient environment that is here for future generations.

Budget Updates

We have received additional net new funding for both sites for Bill 124 plus 2% stabilization funding. Planned capital expenditures are progressing well with most items in the process of purchase. Many thanks to our foundations and community for their support, without which our capital purchases, essential to patient care, could not occur.

Working for Workers Four Act, 2024 Update

Ontario's legislation recently passed Bill 149, the working for workers four act, 2024. This bill includes amendments to the Employment Standards Act (ESA), Occupational Health and Safety Act, Workplace Safety and Insurance Act and the Canada Labour Code. The ESA amendments effective in June that are relevant to LWHA are related vacation pay agreements which are required to be in writing, mandatory inclusion of expected compensation on job postings, and retention requirements of three years for job postings. LWHA did not have to make any changes due to the amendments as these practices have been in place for quite some time.

Equity, Inclusion, Diversity and Anti-Racism (EIDAR)

The LWHA Equity, Inclusion, Diversity, and Anti-racism (EIDAR) committee is a group of passionate and dedicated staff who are working on finalizing an LWHA EIDA-R statement, land acknowledgement and developing a communication plan for introduction and use of both. The committee is also LWHA is engaging with the Huron Perth and Area Ontario Health Team (HPA OHT) for education and resources and to gain an understanding of the framework that has been developed based on best practices in healthcare during the Huron Perth and Area joint accreditation process.

Emergency Services.

Due to the incredible work of the leadership team, staff and physicians, LWHA emergency department (ED) closures over the summer months were limited to 49 hours at the Wingham site. Innovative staffing models and recruitment efforts for nursing and medical lab technicians, assistance from the Emergency Department Locum Program and the commitment of our local physicians was central to this success. As we look into the future the staffing of both emergency departments is looking stable. However, London Health Sciences Center and St. Joseph's Health Care is facing severe ED physician staffing challenges for the fall and will implement a revised incentive program that has the potential to disrupt Emergency department services in smaller communities in the southwest.

Meaningful partnerships to offer a seamless patient experience.

Regional Oncology Services - Update

In May and June we discussed the proposed physician billing changes that were putting regional oncology satellite programs at risk. Discussion and advocacy is ongoing with the Regional Program to ensure our Wingham program remains an active participant in regional oncology program. Thanks to thank Christine Reyes, Dr's Moores and Vander Klippe for their support and advocacy over the summer months.

Respiratory Surge Preparedness

In preparation for the upcoming respiratory virus season, the HPA OHT primary care leads and Huron Perth Public Health are hosting a Respiratory Surge Preparedness Session. Topics include immunization logistics and timelines for the fall (cold, influenza, RSV), review of communications from HPPPH and PHA-PHA, discussion of what the HPA-PHT can do to help navigate this year's respiratory surge, discussion of anticipated obstacles/gaps and barriers, and what we can do collectively to overcome them.

To protect and prevent transmission of the influenza virus to our patients and staff, LWHA will be scheduling staff flu vaccination clinics in the fall. At this time guidance on COVID-19 vaccination for the fall has not been received. Plans will be coordinated based on the guidance document.

Huron Perth – Policy Hospital Transition Protocol

Over the last year we have been working closely with our police, hospital and EMS colleagues in Huron and Perth to draft and finalize a transition protocol. The protocol outlines roles and responsibilities for hospital staff and police when they arrive with a patient who has been apprehended under the Mental Health Act. The protocol aims to improve outcomes for individuals through clarifying and improving the transition of care between police officers and hospital staff. This protocol and has been finalized and endorsed by all participating organizations.

Huron Perth Hospitals Master Planning and Clinical Services Planning

The CEO's and Board Chairs of the three hospital corporations in Huron Perth meet regularly to discuss the regional health system and collaborate with an aim to provide quality care closer to home. To support service sustainability across the Huron Perth Regio the group has identified an essential need to complete a joint Master Clinical Services and Master Plan. To support joint master planning, the decision support staff of the three organizations developed a Catchment Analysis of Huron Perth Hospitals report. Clinical leaders and decision support staff will join the December meeting of this group to review and interpret the report and discuss next steps.