



TO: CCN STAFF & VOLUNTEERS - Friday, February 28, 2020

Update - Ontario Health Team of Northumberland (OHT-N)

It's been less than a year since our community first came together to prepare an application to form one of the province's first Ontario Health Teams (OHTs). Thanks to the efforts of many, a lot of progress has been made in a relatively short period of time.

Below is an update for you on the following:

1. OHT-N's Year 1 Priority Projects (what they are, and some early progress);
2. Leadership and governance planning for OHT-N (who is involved in OHT-N, how the team will be governed in the year ahead);
3. Background on OHTs and the Ontario Health Team of Northumberland (OHT-N)
4. OHT-N information sources and contacts (go-to sources to connect you to both local and provincial OHT news sources and help you to stay, or become, engaged).

1) OHT-N's Year 1 Priority Projects

The province's vision is to have all health care coordinated through Ontario Health Teams (OHTs) in the future. Initially, OHTs will test this model of care through targeted projects serving specific populations.

Northumberland County has an older population than the Ontario average, with many residents living in rural areas. The initial focus for the OHT-N will therefore be on the coordination of health care services for rural populations – specifically those who experience significant barriers to care.

Based on input and data gathered to date, the OHT-N's Year One projects are as follows. The population served by these priority projects, as well as the scope of services provided, will expand over time.

- **Volunteer Peer Support** - This initiative will match trained volunteers with people in our community who require informal support, broadening their social network and assisting them to navigate and access the health care services they need. Volunteers are currently being recruited and an information and training sessions is scheduled to take place in Cobourg in April. [Learn more](#) about volunteer recruitment, now underway.
- **Community Paramedicine** - Leveraging the skills and training of Northumberland Paramedics, this initiative will provide proactive services for patients who use 9-1-1 due to system gaps/challenges/ access to community care. This will include remote monitoring for appropriate patients. [Learn more](#) about the Community Paramedicine Program.
- **Rural Outreach Clinics** - Multiple OHT-N partners will bring services to rural community locations to reduce barriers to care experienced by patients in small, rural areas, such as access, transportation and outreach challenges. Cramahe Township has recently approved its support for space for the first OHT-N outreach clinic and this first clinic is expected to open in Colborne this spring. This clinic will offer select primary care services, diabetes education, community mental health and other health care services, with an aim to broaden these services over time based on further engagement and community needs.

2) Leadership and governance planning for OHT-N

Initial planning to support the OHT-N application process was led by a Collaborative Planning Committee, with representation from the participants listed above. Following designation of the Northumberland group as one of the first 24 OHTs in the province, this Collaborative Planning Committee transitioned to a Leadership Committee that continues to meet regularly to oversee progress of OHT-N priorities.

Project Teams are also meeting regularly, coordinating the logistics of the Year 1 Priority Projects listed above, and moving these forward under the direction of the Leadership Committee. In addition, a Digital Health Project Team has been formed to advance provincial strategies for sharing of information digitally across the OHT.

A formal OHT-N governance structure is now in development, including a Governance Advisory Body—which will include representation from patients and caregivers, as well as Board and/or organization representatives of participating partners—as well as a new Northumberland patient and family advisory committee and a clinical advisory committee. Guiding this work is a Patient/Caregiver Partnership and Community Engagement Framework. A call for interest for the patient and family advisory

committee as well as the clinical advisory committee is anticipated next month (March 2020).

3) Background on OHTs and the OHT-N

Ontario Health Teams (OHTs) are a new model of health care delivery introduced by the province last year. The vision is to better connect different parts of the health care system by bringing together, as one team, patients, families, communities, providers and system leaders to deliver more coordinated care for people in a defined geographic area. The members of an OHT, even if they reside in different organizations or physical locations, will work together toward common goals for improving access to, and delivery of, local health care services.

On December 6, 2019, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health Christine Elliott visited our community to [announce the Ontario Health Team of Northumberland \(OHT-N\) as one of the first 24 OHTs in the province](#). The OHT-N is now moving forward with implementing this new model of organizing and delivering health care using small tests of change in Year 1 Priority Projects.

Ultimately, the objectives of the OHT-N are to:

- Improve patient and caregiver experience
- Improve health outcomes
- Improve provider work life experience
- Improve value to the community

Those involved in OHT-N planning to date have included:

- Local patients/caregivers
- Local primary care physicians
- Alderville First Nation
- Alzheimer Society – Peterborough, Kawartha Lakes, Northumberland & Haliburton
- Campbellford Memorial Hospital
- Community Care Northumberland
- Community Health Centres of Northumberland
- Fourcast
- Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit
- Lakeview Family Health Team
- Local home and community care providers
- Northumberland County
- Northumberland Family Health Team

- Northumberland Hills Hospital
- Rebound Child and Youth Services
- The Bridge Hospice
- Trent Hills Family Health Team

4) OHT-N information sources

In addition to regular updates to audiences inside and beyond the OHT-N partner organizations currently involved, the Team has also launched a central website to help share information, connect us all to both local and provincial OHT news sources, and support future engagement activities. The URL for this new website is:

www.ohtnorthumberland.ca.

As well, a central email address has now been established to receive inquiries:

info@ohtnorthumberland.ca.

Finally, centralized phone numbers are being promoted:

- 905-372-3329, ext. 2335
- 905-377-7757

OHT-N calls received to these lines, which ring through to Northumberland County and NHH Communications/Public Affairs offices respectively, will be re-routed as appropriate for timely follow-up.

Further communication tools, including an OHT-N social media presence and a subscription-based OHT-N newsletter, are being considered for the coming months, as the Priority Projects move forward.

Questions? Please do not hesitate to speak with me directly. I look forward to bringing further updates on OHT-N progress to our team in the months ahead.

Trish

Trish Baird, Executive Director – t.baird@commcare.ca

1-705-653-0955/1-866-514-5774