

I am pleased to provide a summary of the Ontario Health Team Advisory Meeting held on February 6, 2026, hosted by Northumberland Hills Hospital.

The meeting brought together hospital leadership and community partners to strengthen coordination across health and community services throughout Northumberland County. Discussions focused on improving system alignment, reducing service gaps, and ensuring smoother transitions of care for residents.

Key System Themes Discussed

1. **Care Coordination and Transitions**
Emphasis was placed on improving hospital to community transitions and reducing avoidable readmissions through stronger collaboration and clearer referral pathways.
2. **Demand and Service Pressures**
Participants highlighted increasing pressures on services for seniors and caregivers, noting growing complexity in client needs and capacity challenges within the community sector.
3. **Reducing Duplication**
There was discussion around identifying overlapping services and enhancing shared awareness across organizations to improve efficiency and resource use.
4. **Equity and Access**
Barriers such as transportation, income limitations, isolation, and discrimination were identified as ongoing challenges that require coordinated responses to ensure equitable access to care.
5. **Communication Improvements**
The group explored opportunities to strengthen cross sector communication tools and clarify referral processes to better support clients and families.

Relevance to Community Care Northumberland

The discussion aligns closely with CCN's mandate to support residents in remaining safely at home, reduce avoidable hospital visits, strengthen referral partnerships, and improve community awareness of available services.

Observations for the Board

Cross sector collaboration within Northumberland remains active and valued. However, community capacity and sustainability pressures continue to be significant concerns and warrant ongoing strategic attention.

I welcome any direction from the Board regarding follow up actions or areas where further information would be helpful.

Respectfully submitted,

Angela Grogan
Board Director, Community Care Northumberland