

OPSEU



dialogue

OPSEU HEALTH COUNCIL

June 15, 2006

A bi-weekly update on issues affecting health care in Ontario

Web sites to keep an eye on

Ontario Gazette

<http://www.ontariogazette.gov.on.ca/>

Ministry of Health and Long Term Care

<http://www.health.gov.on.ca/index.html>

CCAC Alignment Project

<http://www.ccacalignment.ca/>

LHINs expected to submit plans by October

1

Most Local Health Integration Networks are spending the summer months carrying out consultations towards a draft regional strategic plan, which is due at the end of October. Consultations began as early as April. The strategic plans should give the first indication of the direction regional health care is likely to take. These plans are to be made public and posted on the web sites of each of the 14 LHINs.

Most LHINs recently made the remaining appointments to their nine-member boards. Three LHINs have one more appointment to make.

The LHINs have a specific mandate to continually seek integration opportunities. "Integration" includes forced mergers and transfers of service. The health minister has made it clear in presenting the legislation that health services will be offered from fewer locations. That could mean jobs and health services leaving your community.

Meanwhile, the government has given notice of two new housekeeping regulations for the LHINs — requirement for an audit committee and a community nominations committee. The community nomination committee would be responsible for identifying individuals to fill future vacancies on

the boards. Final appointments would still be made by Order in Council, not by the LHIN. The audit committee would review the LHIN's finances. The public can respond to these regulations in writing no later than July 27, 2006.

OPSEU members may wish to keep an eye on the Ontario Gazette for notice of future regulations.

OPSEU has circulated a LHINs Watch sheet. The first side provides questions you might ask at a community consultation. The second side is a feedback form on the meeting. The more feedback forms that are received centrally, the better our opportunity to network this information.

Three-year hospital funding

In fulfilling their commitment to provide long-term funding to the hospitals, the province may have taken away the ability of the LHINs to make their own regional funding decisions. June 2nd the province announced three-year funding for each of the province's hospitals to 2009. Hospitals represent more than half of the funding LHINs have been given authority over. The LHINs are scheduled to take on responsibility for regional funding decisions beginning in 2007.

We'd like to hear from you!

Send us your comments on the LHINs or any other issue affecting OPSEU health care members. We will excerpt quotes and place them in future editions of dialogue.

"There is no plan. There is only a plan to plan and that's what we're here starting."

— James Meloche
Senior director of planning, integration and community engagement
Central East LHIN.
May 23, 2006,
Durham News