



Message from Judith Hayward, Chair OACCAC

Subject: *LHIN-Health Service Provider Toolkit on Governance Relationships in Voluntary Integration Initiatives*

The OACCAC announces the release of the LHIN-Health Service Provider Toolkit on Governance Relationship in Voluntary Integration Initiatives.

The toolkit was developed through a joint initiative of five Local Health Integration Networks (LHINs), associations representing the health service providers funded through the LHINs and the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long Term Care.

The project was initiated in November 2007, in response to early consultations between the LHINs and health service providers regarding the provisions for voluntary integration in the Local Health Systems Integration Act, 2006.

The Act places an obligation on LHINs and on health service providers to identify opportunities to integrate services, which captures a broad range of activities including coordination, partnering with others and transferring, merging or amalgamating services.

The purpose of the toolkit is to:

- Assist health service provider Boards to understand evolving LHIN practices, processes and expectations arising from interpretation and application of the Act, as illustrated by the experience of the participating LHINs;
- Support health service provider boards in understanding their respective roles and responsibilities, in providing appropriate leadership to their organizations and in developing strategies to work with one another and with the LHIN Boards on voluntary integration initiatives.

The sponsoring LHINs included Central East, Central West, South East, Erie St. Clair and Central, with supporting input and participation by several other LHINs throughout the province. Health service providers were represented by the Ontario health Providers Alliance (OHPA) and the Ontario Association of Community Care Access Centres (OACCAC).

A Project Steering Committee was created from the participating organizations and a consulting team comprising of Maureen Quigley of Maureen Quigley and Associates Inc., Lydia Wakulowsky of the law firm McMillan LLP and Graham Scott of Graham Scott Strategies Inc.

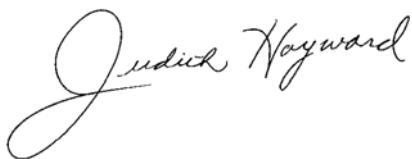
The toolkit consists of two parts:

- Part one describes the “LHIN expectations” related to LHIN and health service provider boards in developing and implementing voluntary integration proposals, including engagement of their communities, plus an outline of various forums for developing relationships between LHIN and health service provider boards.
- Part two provides suggested best practices/approaches for health service provider board leadership for voluntary integrations.

Each participant in the toolkit development will be disseminating the documents to its stakeholders and providing orientation to the contents and principles in the coming months.

I hope that you take the time to review this significant resource.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Judith Hayward". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial 'J'.

Judith Hayward
Chair

