

CHC INTEGRATION REPORT – AN OVERVIEW

By the very nature of the CHC model of care, Community Health Centres naturally engage in integration opportunities within the communities they service. Examples of integration common to all four existing CHCs in the SE LHIN are outlined below.

PREVENTION

Schools - There are a number of CHC programs run in partnership with local schools that are geared to improve school readiness for preschoolers and towards at-risk youth. Programs are aimed at personal and/or academic development and include: After School Program, Homework Support Program, Coaching on Life after High School, Literacy Program, and Math Program.

PUBLIC HEALTH

Health Units - CHCs have partnered with their local health units in delivering pre-natal classes, reproductive and sexual health for students, stroke prevention strategies, and with the VON in conducting seasonal flu clinics for the community. Together with public health, CHCs participate in the planning for an influenza outbreak and will be instrumental in the establishment of Influenza Assessment Referral and Treatment Centres.

Oral Health – The CHCs have partnered with their local health units in arranging for oral health services to lower resourced families with children and dental care for seniors and diabetic clients. In some instances dentists and/or hygienists are provided through local health units, while others have influenced local policies to increase allocation for emergency dental care.

FOOD SECURITY

Food Banks – CHCs are taking an active role in partnering with local food banks and attending food security forums with community agencies to strengthen the availability of food within the community. Some CHCs have extensive good food box programs, organize their own Community Cupboards which accept emergency food & supplies from corporations such as Procter & Gamble for distribution to lower resourced families on an urgent basis.

Community Gardens - Initially led by CHCs, this community-based project engages local residents, the municipality, the food bank, and community volunteers to establish plots of land for gardening with the produce/harvests being shared with the participants, the food bank, and lower resourced families.

MENTAL HEALTH

Consulting Psychiatrist – CHCs have shared care programs with a psychiatrist to provide assessment of referred clients and professional consultation with the CHC's social worker/therapist.

Children's Mental Health – As part of their community capacity funding, CMH has supported CHC programming such as "Babies & Beyond" to meet the needs of pregnant teens and young parents.

SE CHC CDPM NETWORK

The Network is a joint initiative of the 4 CHCs in the SE region for chronic disease prevention and management. Two main areas of focus are: Stroke Strategy and the Stanford Self-Management of Chronic Disease. This collaboration provides opportunities for sharing of knowledge and resources, and developing common tools & approaches to building and maintaining best practices for CDPM.

EDUCATION

Professional Preceptorship – CHCs partner with universities and colleges to provide student placements for RNs, RPNs, NPs, Physicians, and Dietitians (internship) to provide observational experience with a health care practitioner.