

# Provincial Aging at Home Community Innovation Exchange – *Report on Breakout Session*

Close to fifty people from the community support service sector attended the February 20<sup>th</sup> **Provincial Aging at Home Community Innovation Exchange**. During the morning videoconferencing session, which was simultaneously broadcast to multiple sites across the province, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care George Smitherman shared his vision for improving health care for seniors and five LHINs presented innovative approaches to aging at Home. The South East LHIN’s SMILE program was among the five featured approaches.

The afternoon session gave participants the opportunity to discuss these approaches. Their feedback is summarized below.

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| <p><b>Central West LHIN</b><br/> <i>Sahara Seniors Program</i></p>   | <p>Participants liked the volunteer component of this program, the fact that it built upon existing resources, and that needs were identified at the source.</p>   |
| <p><b>Hamilton Niagara<br/>                 Haldimand Brant LHIN</b><br/> <i>Young Carers</i></p>                  | <p>The Young Carers Program was described by participants as an insightful and holistic model. Although they recognized that a tremendous amount of awareness and support would be required to implement this approach, they believed that partnerships, such as student comprehension and educational support, would strengthen the program. Participants also backed the philosophy behind the peer support and drop-in resource centre.</p> |
| <p><b>North East LHIN</b> <i>North<br/>                 Shore Tribal Councils<br/>                 Project</i></p> | <p>Groups were intrigued by the program, since it evolved from the grassroots. Potential clients were involved in identifying real needs and methods of prevention. They felt that this approach in particular confirmed that when groups come together to listen to each other, they can also learn from one another and that even though there are geographical and cultural differences, seniors highlighted similar needs.</p>             |

**North Simcoe Muskoka  
LHIN**  
*Mobile Adult Day Away  
Program*

Participants felt that this program, which features coordination of services and collaboration, was an excellent example of a client centered approach. Groups agreed that it placed the right emphasis on caregiver support.