

NEWS

EVERY VOICE MATTERS IN CONVERSATION ABOUT HEALTH – OPEN HOUSES, ONLINE SURVEYS CONTINUE

May 1, 2009

ENGAGE 2009 Open Houses continue in early May with events in Smiths Falls and Elgin next week, as well as a French language session in Kingston. Already, well over 200 people have provided the South East Local Health Integration Network (LHIN) with their thoughts on what works and what does not when it comes to health services.

In the first four weeks of the six-week Open House tour, the South East LHIN has heard from 20 municipal government representatives, more than 125 front-line health care providers, union officials, 30 physicians, Aboriginal representatives and 70 members of the public. The open houses provide an opportunity for people to ask questions about their health care system, pick up information about the LHIN and demographic profiles and, most importantly, to share their values about the health system.

Those who are unable to attend in person are urged to complete the ENGAGE 2009 survey found on the homepage of the South East LHIN. The survey will remain on the site until May 16.

The survey and open houses are part of a series of activities called ENGAGE 2009 being rolled out by the South East LHIN as it prepares to draft the next three-year strategic plan to direct the delivery of health care services in the region. ENGAGE is a major effort to obtain input from service providers, users of health care, front line health care workers and the public at large.

The Integrated Health Service Plan is the three-year detailed strategy that will guide the decisions of the SE LHIN from April 2010 to March 2013 and assist LHIN staff and health service providers in delivering on the LHIN's vision of achieving better health through proactive, integrated and responsive health care in partnership with an informed community.

QUOTES

"The open house process is an excellent one that allows everyone an opportunity to provide valuable input. Some excellent ideas are taking root in these sessions and will, without a doubt, strengthen our ability to make decisions," says Georgina Thompson, Chair of the Board of Directors of the South East LHIN.

"Experts contribute essential information and knowledge to decision making – but we also know decisions are more effective and sustainable when factors such as local knowledge and perspectives and sensitivity to community context are part of the decision-making equation."

"The response and level of engagement we are getting from citizens and providers is tremendous. We know that people are passionate about health care. It is our job to work with the health care community and citizens to make sure our priorities and standards are the right ones. It is a tough task and it requires

balancing many different interests, demands and pressures,” adds Paul Huras, Chief Executive Officer, South East LHIN. “Residents of our region have an important role to play – after all, they not only use health care services, but as taxpayers they pay for the system.”

REMAINING OPEN HOUSES:

May 5: Smiths Falls, Perth & Lanark (Lounge, Curling Club, Smiths Falls)

10:30-11:30 am: Municipal and elected representatives
11:30-12:30 pm: Front-line health providers/organizations
12:30-3:30 pm: General public

May 6: Rideau Lakes (Elgin Municipal Complex)

10:30-11:30 am: Municipal and elected representatives
11:30-12:30 pm: Front-line health providers/organizations
12:30-3:30 pm: General public

May 7: French Language Session (TBD, Kingston –watch website for location)

2-5 pm: Front-line providers/organizations, general public

May 12: Brockville (YMCA, Brockville)

10-11 am: Session for municipal and elected representatives
11-12:30 pm: Front-line health providers/organizations
12:30-3:30 pm: General public

May 13: South East Leeds & Grenville (St. Paul’s United Church, Prescott)

10:30-11:30 am: Session for municipal and elected representatives
11:30-12:30 pm: Front-line health providers/organizations
12:30-3:30 pm: General public

May 14: Gananoque (Carveth Centre, Gananoque)

10:30-11:30 am: Session for municipal and elected representatives
11:30-12:30 pm: Front-line health providers/organizations
12:30-3:30 pm: General public

May 15: North Hastings (Lobby, North Hastings Community Centre)

10:30-11:30 am: Session for municipal and elected representatives
11:30-12:30 pm: Front-line health providers/organizations
1:30-3:30 pm: General public

LEARN MORE

For more information about the South East LHIN, visit www.southeastlhin.on.ca

Media contacts:

Julie White, Communications, SE LHIN, 613-242-1389, or email Julie.White@lhins.on.ca.