

STAFF COMMUNIQUÉ, 2nd EDITION

March 26, 2013

ESCLHIN BOARD APPROVE REALIGNMENT OF HOSPITAL HEALTHCARE SERVICES IN WINDSOR/ESSEX

At its monthly Board of Directors meeting today, the Erie St. Clair Local Health Integration Network (ESCLHIN) approved the voluntary realignment of services between Windsor Regional Hospital (WRH) and Hôtel-Dieu Grace Hospital (HDGH), allowing the process to proceed.

This means that the current activity underway by the seven Working Groups, overseen by the Steering Committee continues over the next four months.

Staff will recall from previous communications, in November, 2012, the Windsor Hospitals Study Task Force concluded that “there is strong interest and enthusiasm” from the Windsor-Essex community for the development of a new, state-of-the-art, single site acute care hospital. The Task Force recommended that the Provincial Government proceed immediately in working with the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care (MOHLTC) and the ESCLHIN to approve a plan to move forward. Further, the MOHLTC in January, 2013, provided a one-time allocation of \$2.5 million to commence the capital planning process. On February 7, 2013, the Board of Directors for WRH and HDGH met together and passed resolutions that outline their vision for a new Windsor Hospital System and Windsor Hospital Governance Model.

It was agreed that all acute care services and necessary support for these services at the single site acute care hospital will be operated and governed by Windsor Regional Hospital.

All sub-acute services (rehabilitation, chronic care, specialized mental health, addictions and children’s mental health) will be operated and governed by Hôtel-Dieu Grace Hospital at the Tayfour Campus. Also, once the single site acute care hospital is operational, the existing HDGH (Ouellette) site will be reconfigured to facilitate ambulatory care, urgent care, diagnostic services and possible day surgery.

Both hospitals have endorsed the interim transfer of acute services from HDGH to WRH and the interim transfer of chronic care, rehabilitation, specialized mental health, addictions, and children’s mental health from WRH to HDGH.

Both hospitals are now in the “due diligence” process where, the seven Working Groups are meeting and reporting to the Steering Committee, a process that will continue through to June, 2013. The objective of the process is to develop a transition plan while maintaining “business as usual” pre and post transition date. **Note that a date has not been set for actual realignment!** There are a number of approvals required. First, the final configuration of services and resources needs to be approved by the hospitals and the ESCLHIN and, second, the hospitals will need to approve when the realignment will occur. It should be noted that this is not the planning for the new single site acute care hospital. Once the Steering Committee presents its final recommendations, the Working Groups and Steering Committee created for this purpose will disband.

In order to communicate effectively on all of the work underway, a specific Windsor-hospitals website will be developed and available to all staff related to the latest information available from the Steering Committee and Working Groups. Staffs are reminded to use their respective hospital sites for current information including Q&As.

Again, both hospital Boards and CEOs recognize that this is a new era and a new beginning in the relationship between Hôtel-Dieu Grace Hospital and Windsor Regional Hospital. This means a high degree of collaboration, cooperation and communication between both.

Please continue to ask any questions by either calling or emailing Ken Deane, President and CEO, Hôtel-Dieu Grace Hospital or David Musyj, President and CEO, Windsor Regional Hospital.

Thank you!

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Hôtel-Dieu Grace Hospital

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