

Family Health Teams

Advancing Primary Health Care

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August 2005

First Family Health Teams Announced

Family Health Teams provide a continuum of care, so they can do more to promote health and prevent disease, as well as treat illness - that saves lives and precious health care dollars. We're changing the way health care is delivered in Ontario to better serve people and their communities.

George Smitherman, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care

On April 15, 2005, Premier Dalton McGuinty, with Minister George Smitherman, announced that opportunities to form 52 Family Health Teams and three new networks of Family Health Teams have been awarded across the province. (See Appendix 1 for a full list of communities.)

This number exceeds the target set by the government of 45 Family Health Teams for Spring 2005. By 2007-08, the Government has set a goal of establishing 150 Family Health Teams to improve access to primary health care services for over 2.5 million Ontarians.

Family Health Teams are a key component of the government's plan to build a health care system that delivers on three priorities – keeping Ontarians healthy, reducing wait times and providing better access to doctors and nurses.

More access, when you need it, closer to home

Family Health Teams will be a significant entry point into the health care system, and in addition to providing basic primary health care services, will be leaders in the delivery of more comprehensive services in chronic disease management, health promotion and disease prevention.

These teams will also help patients navigate their way through the health care system to receive the services they need. Family Health Teams are not “one-size-fits-all” and will be designed by communities and providers to address unique local health care needs.

Family Health Teams allow physicians and other allied health providers to work as a team to focus on keeping patients healthy. The vision calls for physicians, nurse practitioners and other members of the team to practice together in a positive working

environment, sharing and benefiting from the complementary knowledge and skills of their colleagues.

In larger centres, Family Health Teams may include specialist services and diagnostic and outpatient services such as X-ray, ultrasound and minor surgery. Family Health Teams will be in the forefront of utilizing state-of-the art information technology, linking patient records across different patient care settings and giving providers timely access to test results and other important information.

Family Health Team Start- Up

The process for the establishment of Family Health Teams include:

- Initial application Stage
- Formative Stage – governance framework formation
- Strategic and Program Planning Stage – determination of services/programs and appropriate mix of providers for your community
- Business Plan Application Stage – development and approval of a multi-year business and operational plan
- Pre-operational Stage – renovations (if required), IT, hiring and training staff and finalizing accountability and reporting requirements with the Ministry
- Operational Stage – ongoing development and implementation of programs, ensuring all systems and operations meet requirements, reporting etc.

The Ministry is preparing a series of guides to assist groups in successfully developing their Family Health Teams. These guides contain “how to” strategies on governance and accountability, patient enrollment, business and operational plan development, physician and other provider compensation, planning for chronic disease management, health promotion and disease prevention, and local community integration models, among others. These guides are being distributed to successful applicants and will be posted on the website when feedback has been received and they are finalized. Funding for the groups is available to obtain help to develop the plans. Groups are encouraged to make a case to meet local needs.

Once a Family Health Team’s business and operational plan is approved, the group can begin to implement plans to hire interdisciplinary team members and expand services, programs and patient access. The Ministry is working closely with some teams that are ready now to integrate interdisciplinary providers while they continue to develop their business plans. These teams are expected to be up and running by early Fall 2005.

Physicians in a Family Health Team that previously enrolled their patients while practicing in a Family Health Network, Primary Care Network or other harmonized models do not need to re-enroll their patients.

More Family Health Teams to be announced

Over the next few months, the government is preparing to announce additional groups that applied in the first round to begin planning to form Family Health Teams. A second call for applications is expected later this Fall for groups that were not selected in the first round and for new groups that wish to apply.

Approved Family Health Teams can continue to work with their Family Health Team coordinator. For those interested in establishing Family Health Teams, please refer regularly to the web site for information on the application process: www.health.gov.on.ca/transformation/fht. Any questions can be directed to the Ministry at 1-866-766-0266 or email at FHTinquiry@moh.gov.on.ca.

Appendix 1

Phase One - Family Health Team Announcements

LHIN	Proposed Family Health Team	Location
1	Chatham-Kent Family Health Team	Chatham
1	Harrow Health Centre	Harrow
1	Leamington and Area Family Health Team	Leamington
1	Tilbury and District Family Health Team Action Group	Tilbury
2	East Elgin Family Health Team	Stratfordville
2	Huron County Family Health Team	Seaforth
2	Maitland Valley Family Health Team	Goderich
2	Owen Sound Family Health Team	Owen Sound
2	Perth County Family Health Team	Stratford
3	Centre for Family Medicine	Kitchener
3	Grandview Family Health Team	Cambridge
3	Mount Forest North Wellington Family Health Team	Mount Forest
3	New Vision FHN	Kitchener
3	Upper Grand Family Health Team	Fergus
4	Delhi Community Health Centre	Simcoe
4	Garden City Family Health Team	St Catharines
4	Haldimand Family Health Team	Hagersville
4	McMaster Family Health Team	Hamilton
5	Mel Lloyd Family Health Centre	Shelburne
6	Prime Care	Milton
6	Halton Hills Family Physicians	Georgetown
6	Dorval Medical Associates Family Health Team	Oakville
7	St. Joseph Family Medicine Urban Health Clinic	Toronto
7	Mount Sinai Family Health Team	Toronto
7	St. Michael's Urban Angels ¹	Toronto
7	Sunnybrooke and Women's College (Grenville St.)	Toronto
8	Southlake Family Health Team	Newmarket
9	East Northumberland Family Health Team	Campbellford
9	Haliburton Highlands Family Health Team	Haliburton
9	Brighton Health Services Centre	Brighton
10	Bancroft Family Health Team ²	Bancroft
10	Maple (formerly Cataraqui) Family Health Team	Kingston
10	Prince Edward Family Health Team	Picton

LHN	Proposed Family Health Team	Location
10	Queen's Family Health Team (FHN)	Kingston
10	Sharbot Lake Medical Centre Family Health Team	Sharbot Lake
10	VON Southeast Leeds & Grenville Family Health Team ³	Brockville
11	Bruyere Academic Family Health Team	Ottawa
11	Eastern Ottawa Family Health Team	Cumberland
11	North Renfrew Family Health Team	Deep River
11	Ottawa Hospital Academic Family Health Team	Ottawa
11	Petawawa Centennial Family Health Team	Petawawa
12	Algonquin Family Health Team	Huntsville
13	Blue Sky Family Health Team	North Bay
13	City of Lakes Family Health Team	Sudbury
13	Espanola & Area Family Health Team	Espanola
13	Haileybury Rural and Northern Physician Group	Haileybury
13	Municipality of Assiginack	Manitowaning
13	White Pines Family Health Network	Timmins
14	Dryden Area Family Health Team	Dryden
14	Fort William Family Health Team	Thunder Bay
14	Marathon Family Health Team	Marathon
14	Red Lake - Ear Falls Family Health Team ⁴	Red Lake

St. Michael's Urban Angels ¹ – **Consolidated with Seaton House.**

Bancroft Family Health Team ² – **Consolidated with North Hastings.**

VON Southeast Leeds & Grenville Family Health Team ³ – **Consolidated with VON South Central Family Health Team.**

Red Lake - Ear Falls Family Health Team ⁴ – **Consolidated with Ear Fall Community Health Centre Inc.**

Phase One - Family Health Team Announcements
Network Family Health Teams

LHIN	Proposed Family Health Team	Location
4	Core Care	Hamilton
4	Escarpment Family Health Team	Hamilton
4	Hamilton Downtown Medical Centre	Hamilton
4	HCHC PCN	Hamilton
4	Innovations Family Medicine	Hamilton
4	Intramed	Hamilton
4	Ottawa-Sherman Medical Associates (HSO BA-19)	Hamilton
4	Rosedale Medical Group Family Health Team	Hamilton
4	Stoney Creek and Hamilton Mountain Family Health Team	Stoney Creek
9	Greater Peterborough Family Health Team (Chemong)	Peterborough
9	Peterborough Medical Centre (Greater Peterborough Health Care Alliance)	Peterborough
9	Peterborough Clinic Family Health Team (Greater Peterborough Health Care Alliance)	Peterborough
9	Peterborough Palliative Plus Family Health Team	Peterborough
9	VON Havelock-Belmont-Methuen Family Health Team	Peterborough
12	Central Simcoe Family Health Team (3 Teams)	Barrie