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Date: October 14, 2021
To: GW OHT Core Steering Committee
From: Emmi Perkins, Director of Transformation
Subject: Key Messages – Core Steering – October 13, 2021

Key Messages

The following are the Key Messages from the Guelph Wellington OHT Steering Committee meeting on October 13, 2021 that can be shared as appropriate with your staff, clinicians, boards, partners etc.

- GW OHT Steering Committee members were provided with an updated list of GW OHT Direct and Enabling Core Partners (click [here](#)) as well as updated partnership descriptions (click [here](#)). Additionally, to support a common understanding and implications of an ‘Organizational Alliance’ partners were provided with a collection of foundational materials (click [here](#)).
- The GW OHT and WDGPH received a memo from the Ministry acknowledging the collaborative work that OHTs and Public Health Units (PHUs) have done to successfully deliver COVID-19 vaccines. The Ministry is requesting that approved OHTs and PHUs, along with their Ontario Health (OH) Regions, work together to prioritize and plan vaccine deployment (including COVID-19, influenza and other routine vaccinations) throughout the coming months. Dr. Mercer encouraged a sustainable, proactive community solution. Partners spoke of the need to balance the reduced capacity of health human resources and other health system priorities with the unique opportunity for partners to collectively contribute to a plan that will meet the vaccination needs of our community over the next number of years. A ‘Vaccination Planning Table’ will be developed to collaboratively design this plan for our community.
- The Upper Grand Family Health Team was welcomed as a new Direct Core Partner of the Guelph Wellington Ontario Health Team!
- As the OHT does not have its own insurance policy, each partner of the GW OHT is working to confirm they have insurance that covers their governors, staff and advisors from liability for decisions and actions they contribute to as they participate on the OHT tables.
- Steering Committee members spoke of the increasing strain on senior leaders as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. An article was shared (click [here](#)) that reports very high levels of exhaustion amongst senior leaders that places them at risk of burnout and challenging our collective ability to recover from the pandemic. Steering Committee members were encouraged to check in with themselves and each other as peers in our health care system.

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- GW OHT Steering Committee received updates from two working/advisory groups:
 - a) **Quality Improvement & Continuous Learning Working Group** – Presented by Ross Kirkconnell (Executive Sponsor)

The first task for this new working group is to support the required Collaborative Quality Improvement Plan (cQIP). The Steering Committee reviewed the cQIP indicators provided to OHTs by the Ministry and Ontario Health. It was suggested that we should use the cQIP as an opportunity to tell the story of our quality improvement journey to date and highlight the work that we are doing rather than create additional projects.
 - b) **Mental Health & Addictions** - Presented by Kim Bell & Ross Kirkconnell (Executive Sponsor for ‘MH&A in IPCT’) and Helen Fishburn (Executive Sponsor for Tier 4/5)
- The Tier 3/‘MH&A in IPCT’ Working Group initially formed to review mild to moderated MH&A patients. Work revealed that ‘Tier 3’ patients were well supported by primary care but there is a gap in services available to support Tier 4/5 patients that present to primary care in crisis. Greater and more consistent access to psychiatry is also an area of focus.
- The Tier 4/5 Working Group is focusing on 1) development of the Health Hub 2) development of spokes into the Hub and 3) sustainable housing. Renovations have started on Grace Gardens housing project. The Youth Hub has been created through a partnership between CMHA & Wyndham House.
- A regional MH&A COVID Recovery Table has been created including sector representation leads to review provincial priorities for mental health including eating disorders, substance abuse and Ontario Structured Psychotherapy (OSP)

*If you have any questions or comments, please contact Emmi Perkins
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