

Date: December 15, 2023
To: GW OHT Core Steering Committee
From: Emmi Perkins, Director of Transformation
Subject: **GW OHT Core Steering Committee Key Messages – December 13, 2023**

Key Messages

The following are the Key Messages from the Guelph Wellington OHT (GW OHT) Steering Committee meeting on December 13th. They can be shared as appropriate with your staff, clinicians, boards, and partners.

- 1. Readiness for Patient Centered Information Sharing Processes** - The Steering Committee received a presentation from Dr. Kevin McDermott from Conestoga College describing research that was completed via a focus group with the GW OHT Privacy & Security Working Group. The primary research question was to identify barriers to clinical information sharing with patients and between organizations within patients' circle of care. The implication of the research is that sharing of personal health information (PHI) for authorized purposes and information system integration is of strategic importance to GW OHT organizations and should be embedded into organizations' strategic plans. There is a need for more top-down leadership from executives and governors to articulate organizational visions for these initiatives. As a next step, the results of this research will be shared with the GW OHT Governance Council including the recommendation that the next set of GW OHT Strategic Priorities include a component on harmonized information sharing.
- 2. GW OHT Governance Council Leadership Focus Action Plan** – The Steering Committee received the GW OHT Governance Council Leadership Focus Action Plan that was informed by the October 19th GW OHT Joint Partner Board and Steering Committee event. The Action Plan is intended to support the achievement of the Governance Council's Leadership Focus Recommendations that were developed throughout the Council's 2022/23 Council. The Steering Committee requested more time and further conversation before endorsing the action plan to ensure operational capacity and to better understand the alignment of the action plan with the GW OHT's current work plan and priorities.
- 3. Respiratory Season Update** – Dr. Mercer reported that there has been a sudden and significant increase in COVID in our communities as well as early signals of increasing RSV. In alignment with the GW OHT Surge Plan, a small action-oriented ad hoc working group will be formed and will meet weekly to review the # of cases and outbreaks, wastewater signals, hospital pressures as well as the severity of the diseases. Based on this information, the group will determine the surge level and required response.
- 4. Home Care Integration Leading Practice** – The launch of the Home Care Integration Leading Practice has been deferred until September 2024 to allow for privacy and security assessments as well as the development of a provincial framework to guide the deployment of care coordinators to the Leading Practice OHTs. During this time, Leading Practice OHTs will be busy securing partnerships with Service Provider Organizations for their respective Leading Practices, working to attain the required access to CHRIS, supporting the selection of care coordinators etc. Locally, Integrated Patient Care Teams will continue their efforts to advance integrated care delivery through partnership and shared care delivery processes. As the GW OHT continues to support provincial Leading Practice efforts, the Council will continue to monitor the risks and benefits to the partners and residents of Guelph Wellington OHT.

If you have any questions or comments, or would like to be involved in the Guelph Wellington Ontario Health Team, please contact Emmi Perkins (emmi.perkins@guelphwellingtonoht.com)