



For Immediate Release

August 4, 2021

(St. Thomas, ON) Elgin health service providers have entered into a Collaborative Decision Making Agreement (CDMA) – an important step toward achieving official Ontario Health Team (OHT) approval by the Ministry of Health. The Agreement formalizes the collaborations between team members and determines how they will work together to make decisions about the proposed Elgin Ontario Health Team (Elgin OHT).

Entering into a CDMA is a key milestone reflecting the culmination of many months of work by health care partners from across the continuum of care including administrators, board governors, physicians, and patients/caregiver partners. All approved OHTs are required by the Ministry of Health to establish and document a CDMA between members to be eligible for OHT implementation funding.

The Agreement outlines various arrangements for the proposed Elgin OHT, including its Vision, Values, and Guiding Principles. The CDMA also outlines a consensus decision-making model that will guide the team in their planning, priority setting and decisions.

The Elgin OHT submitted its full application to the Ministry of Health earlier this year to become an OHT. Once approved by the Ministry, the team will proceed with further detailed planning and establish working groups / integration tables for targeted populations to better coordinate and integrate health services.

Quotes:

“As members of the Steering Committee have come together over the past two years, to build the Elgin OHT, I have seen the dedication and drive of all who work for the health and wellbeing of residents across Elgin County. Each is committed to ensuring equity in the deepest possible way, and I have no doubt the Elgin OHT will be an exemplar of progressive, inclusive healthcare for all.”

- Judith Wiley, Chief Executive Officer, Central Community Health Centre

“The Elgin OHT Steering Committee has worked extensively over the past two years to establish a formal Ontario Health Team. Entering into the CDMA is an important milestone and an example of the deep collaboration that is possible in this community. The hospital looks forward to working with our partners and patients to pursue better, integrated care for our community.”

- Robert Biron, President and CEO, St. Thomas Elgin General Hospital

“PHSS is proud to be a member and working collaboratively with the members of the Elgin Ontario Health Team. We look forward to contributing to the future of integrated health care in Ontario and building a system that creates a barrier-free continuum of care and supports, ensuring that everyone, including people with medical and complex needs, receive the care and support they require in their

communities.”

- Brian Dunne, President & CEO, PHSS – Medical & Complex Care in Community

“The Elgin OHT is embracing a patient-centric view of proactive and coordinated delivery of care with priority given to both widening access to care and convenience of navigating healthcare services.”

- Aaron Berg, Patient Partner

About Ontario Health Teams:

Ontario Health Teams have been introduced to provide a new way of organizing and delivering care that is more connected to patients in their local communities. Under Ontario Health Teams, health care providers (including hospitals, doctors and home and community care providers) work as one coordinated team - no matter where they provide care. Learn more about the Elgin OHT:

<https://www.elginoht.ca/>

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Elgin OHT – Design and Planning Graphic:

