

## Elgin OHT Update from the Executive Director August 2025

### What's Ahead for 2025–26 – New Priorities and What They Mean for Our Community

#### Working Together for Better Care

This year, Ontario Health set new priorities for Ontario Health Teams through the 2025–26 Amendment to the Transfer Payment Agreement. These priorities focus on connecting more people in our community to the care they need, when they need it, and in ways that work for them. They come with clear expectations about what we need to do and how we'll measure success.

Many of these priorities build on the progress we made last year, which we've captured in our [2024–25 Year in Review](#).

#### What's Coming in 2025–26

Here's what we'll be working on, together with our members and partners, over the next year:

- **Making it easier to find a family doctor or primary care nurse practitioner**
  - Formalizing a Primary Care Network (PCN) to connect the local primary care clinical community
  - Creating fair, consistent pathways to help people get attached to a family physician or primary care nurse practitioner
  - Expanding the Elgin Community Health Hub and outreach services for people without primary care
  - Expanding access to team-based primary care
- **Improving awareness of and access to mental health, substance use health, and addiction supports**
  - Developing an online tool to help people find the right mental health, substance use health, or addictions services
  - Build community capacity to provide immediate support for people in need (Mental Health First Aid training, single session therapy training)
  - Helping our community create more compassionate and inclusive care environments with trauma-informed care training
  - Enhancing The INN, our local shelter, as an accessible service hub, including outreach to rural areas
- **Helping people live well with chronic conditions**
  - Launching an Elgin COPD Pathway for better lung health care
  - Bringing pulmonary rehab to Elgin
  - Expanding successful, integrated care programs like PREVENT and Best Care to more people

- **Building more inclusive, welcoming care**
  - Increasing access to culturally safe services for Indigenous peoples and other equity-deserving groups
  - Strengthening our Community Council

### **Why This Matters for Our Community**

These priorities are designed to:

- Reduce the number of people without a family physician or primary care nurse practitioner or primary care team
- Make it easier to find and use services, both in person and online
- Increase access to mental health, substance use health and addictions care, close to home
- Create a health system where everyone feels welcomed and respected

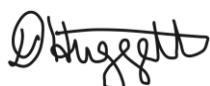
### **Challenges We're Watching**

While we're excited about these priorities, we know there are challenges:

- The expectations are higher than ever, with very specific activities we must complete
- Our OHT members, staff and partners are busy, and resources are limited
- Some improvements will take time, especially where we need new systems or tools
- We'll need strong cooperation between our team members and partners to make sure things move forward

We have a big year ahead and it will take all of us working together as a team to achieve success and maximum impact for our community. We look forward to continuing to share our progress with you as the year progresses.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Deanna Huggett".

Deanna Huggett  
Executive Director  
Elgin Ontario Health Team