

Elgin OHT Update from the Executive Director

October 2025

Strengthening Access and Attachment to Primary Health Care

This quarter marked a major milestone for our OHT with the approval of the Elgin Neighbourhood Health Home Model. The model builds on existing strengths within our community and represents a locally co-designed vision for how care can be further organized around people and neighbourhoods, rather than institutions or programs. It emphasizes team-based, connected, and equitable care, close to home for every resident of Elgin.

Building on this foundation, our team is preparing a funding proposal to expand access and attachment to interprofessional primary care teams across Elgin. The proposal will align directly with the Neighbourhood Health Home Model, focusing on communities with the greatest attachment gaps and opportunities to scale shared team-based supports. This represents a critical step toward ensuring that everyone in Elgin who desires it can be attached to a family physician, primary care nurse practitioner or primary care team that supports their physical, mental, and social well-being.

Expanding Access to Mental Health, Substance Use Health, and Addictions Care

We're continuing to build momentum in improving access to mental health, substance use health and addictions supports. A growing number of local providers are now being trained in "one-at-a-time" therapy — a practical, single-session approach that gives people the help they need, when they need it, without waiting lists or complicated referrals. This shift is helping us reimagine how people access care in Elgin, creating more open doors, more timely help, and a system that meets people where they are.

Enhancing Chronic Disease Prevention and Management

This fall, we launched the Elgin COPD Integrated Care Pathway, developed through collaboration among our hospital, primary care, and community partners. The pathway outlines how the provincial COPD quality standards apply locally — showing what high-quality care looks like in Elgin and how teams can work together to deliver it. Next, we'll continue to share and embed the pathway with providers across the system so people at risk of or living with COPD experience consistent, coordinated care wherever they go.

Where to from here?

With the Neighbourhood Health Home Model now approved by the OHT, we have a clear, shared direction for how we'll continue building a more connected system of care in Elgin. Turning this vision into action will take commitment from all of us — to align our efforts and embrace new ways of working together. I'm encouraged by how much energy and excitement this model has sparked across our community. It truly reflects something created by our community, for our community, and together we're ready to bring it to life.

With gratitude,



Deanna Huggett
Executive Director
Elgin Ontario Health Team

Elgin Neighbourhood Health Home Model



Care organized through a hub and spoke network:

- A Central Hub and East and West Elgin Spokes offering team-based care to everyone in Elgin
- Satellite sites in high-demand areas, and enhanced mobile and outreach services
- Coordinated after hours care
- One Elgin waitlist for people looking for a family doctor or nurse practitioner
- Connected system navigation and referral management
- Integrated community-based specialist and ambulatory care
- An academic teaching site to support recruitment and retention