



**Lakeridge
Health**

MEMORANDUM

To: Leadership Forum

From: Susan deRyk, Interim President and CEO

Date: April 22, 2020

Subject: Durham Mental Health Services and Lakeridge Health's Pinewood Centre
Voluntary Integration - Update

As we shared in January, Lakeridge Health and Durham Mental Health Services (DMHS) had initiated discussions to explore opportunities for greater collaboration to improve and extend community-based mental health and addictions services in Durham Region.

Through our initial discussions and review of the potential opportunities, DMHS and Lakeridge Health in partnership determined that a voluntary integration was considered the best option and began a due diligence process to determine benefits and risk of an integration.

Voluntary integration supports significant potential to improve the quality of care and experience for people with mental health conditions and addictions. And, at the same time, it brings value to the health system and our dedicated teams that can be invested back into local mental health and addictions services.

Over the past few months, a Joint (Board) Steering Committee led the Due Diligence Process supported by a number of joint Lakeridge Health-DMHS Operational Working Groups. Through this work a detailed analysis of the benefits and risks of the proposed voluntary integration was conducted. In addition, extensive community engagement was undertaken to ensure patient/client and partner perspectives were collected to inform the work.

The due diligence findings presented many opportunities to optimize services, extend services through partnership and highlighted how people within our community would benefit from the creation of an integrated mental health and addictions care system.

Over the past few weeks, both the Lakeridge Health Board of Trustees (April 16) and the DMHS Board of Directors (March 30) unanimously approved moving forward with the proposed voluntary integration.

The strong support from the governing bodies of both organizations is critical to the success of the integration, as is the support from our teams, our patients/clients and the community.

The due diligence process underscored the benefits of a more integrated system to improve the experience and quality of care for people with mental health conditions and addictions by transforming services and removing barriers between providers across Durham Region.

Further approval is required from both the corporate members at the Annual General Meeting, as well as support from Ontario Health, prior to finalizing the integration plan.

As we move through the formal approval process as outlined above, the Working Groups will continue to meet to ensure minimal disruption to patients/clients and families so both organizations experience a seamless transition to an integrated mental health and addiction system.

We will continue to regularly communicate updates on this exciting integration opportunity with our teams and partners in the coming months.

This is an important development in the transformation of care and service to people within Durham Region. Thank you for your ongoing dedication to people we serve.