



Lakeridge Health

MEMORANDUM

To: Lakeridge Health Team

From: Susan deRyk, Interim President and CEO

Date: February 19, 2020

Subject: Durham Mental Health Services and Lakeridge Health's Pinewood Centre voluntary integration exploration - Update

On January 23, it was shared that Durham Mental Health Services (DMHS) and Lakeridge Health are exploring opportunities for greater collaboration to improve and extend community-based mental health and addictions services in Durham Region.

DMHS and Lakeridge Health have determined that a voluntary integration between the two organizations has a significant potential to improve the quality of care and experience for people with mental health conditions and addictions. And, at the same time, it will bring value to the health system and our dedicated teams that can be invested back into local mental health and addictions services.

A Joint Board Steering Committee and Due Diligence Operational Working Group have now been formed to assess the full benefits and risks of a voluntary integration, including the value for patients/clients. The due diligence will result in a detailed report which will provide the information needed to make a well-informed decision about the future.

The Operational Working Group is conducting in-depth analysis on the human resources and financial implications of a proposed voluntary integration. As part of this analysis, program leaders from DMHS and Lakeridge Health are creating detailed clinical program integration plans to identify opportunities to optimize services for patients.

To ensure a robust process that is fully informed by the perspectives of patients/clients and partners, a community engagement is being undertaken over the next 60 days. This will involve discussions with existing advisory groups for both organizations and other forums to receive feedback.

Specifically, Lakeridge Health's Patient and Family Advisory Council members be asked input and insights on strategies to enhance care for people living with mental health conditions and/or addictions in Durham Region.

The partners are on track to present the Due Diligence Report to the Boards of both organizations at their April meetings. DMHS and Lakeridge Health are also working with Ontario Health through the Central East LHIN to support the process for this proposed voluntary integration.

We will continue to regularly communicate with our teams and partners to provide updates and progress reports.

Thank you for your commitment to people living with mental health conditions and addictions in Durham Region.