South West Hospice Palliative Care Network Update

**April 2016**

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**HPC Collaborative Activities**

The South West LHIN HPC Collaboratives and HPC Leadership Committee hosted a joint knowledge transfer meeting enabled by OTN in March to highlight the local change ideas. Each Collaborative chose one change idea that had rated the highest in sustainability using the IDEAS Sustainability Tool and had been determined as ready for spread. The purpose of the exercise was to share learnings to the subLHIN Collaboratives and promote adoption of successful change ideas across the region. We had participants from all 5 geographic collaboratives and the leadership committee.

**HPC Regional Activities**

**Aboriginal Perspective**

The South West HPC Leadership Committee Aboriginal Subcommittee will be presenting the Aboriginal Perspective to HPC – educational tools at the April HPC Leadership Committee including the cultural safety training program, the workbook-Developing Palliative Care Programs in First Nations Communities and South West CCAC resources – First Nations Information Sheet for CC’s & Fact Sheet about First Nations and CCAC

**Education Subcommittee**

The final report of the Education Survey has been completed and will be shared at the May HPC Leadership Committee meeting with recommendations based on the findings. This report and recommendations will serve as foundational to the development of a 2 year strategic plan around hospice related education.

**Provincial Updates**

**OPCN**

The OPCN hosted a session in March followed by a formal launch of the new Ontario Palliative Care Network (OPCN).

In March, John Fraser, Parliamentary Assistant, Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, released the [*Palliative and End-Of-Life Care Provincial Roundtable Report*](http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/public/programs/palliative/default.aspx)at an event where the vision for a high-quality, integrated provincial palliative care network for Ontario was shared.

The formation of the OPCN is the outcome of extensive stakeholder engagement and collaboration among organizations such as hospices, home care agencies, community support services, hospitals and many others. It introduces a new governance structure for palliative care accountable to the Ministry, under the leadership of the Local Health Integration Networks (LHINs), CCO, Health Quality Ontario, and the Quality Hospice Palliative Care Coalition of Ontario. In addition, each LHIN area will continue to develop its Regional Palliative Care Program which will be jointly accountable to their respective LHIN CEO and CCO Regional Vice President.

This launch signals a new direction for palliative care in the province where programs will be more aligned, quality and performance will be measured and patients and families will have a voice at the decision tables.

In May 2014, the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (the “ministry”) launched “Patients First: A Roadmap to Strengthen Home and Community Care”, which highlighted a commitment to improved access and equity in palliative and end-of-life care at home and in the community.

The new provincial network will represent a shift in the way planning for improvements to palliative care is organized, not only at the provincial level, but also at the local level.

 The OPCN year-end letter which is intended to provide everyone with an update after the meetings on March 10/11 and set out some next steps that the Secretariat is working towards was released and shared with all Collaborative and HPC Leadership members as well as the formal announcement related to the appointment of the new provincial clinical leads.