

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

February 28, 2018

The Waterloo Wellington Local Health Integration Network (WWLHIN)'s Board of Directors held a meeting January 31, 2018. Below are highlights from the meeting. For the full agenda and briefing notes, please [visit our website](#).

Patient and Family Advisory Committee Member – Shannon's Journey

WWLHIN Patient and Family Advisory Committee member, Shannon shared the story of her family's journey since receiving a prenatal diagnosis for her son of Congenital Central Hypoventilation Syndrome (CCHS). This rare genetic disorder impairs the body's ability to breathe, particularly during sleep. Shannon was fully aware of what the diagnosis would mean for her family, because she has also been living with CCHS all of her life.

Shannon's son needs support 24 hours a day to ensure he is breathing well. When her son's ventilator alarm goes off in the middle of the night, Shannon requires the assistance of home care nurses to make sure her son is breathing while she gets some sleep. Shannon's medical challenges include finding nurses who are able to care for his unique needs. Shannon brings an important voice to the Patient and Family Advisory Committee where she hopes to help impact the local health care system.

Read Shannon's full story [here](#).

Improving the Musculoskeletal Care Experience

The WWLHIN has developed a strategic plan to improve the patient experience and outcomes for patients needing musculoskeletal (MSK) care, including the implementation of a Central Intake and Assessment Centre (CIAC) and Interdisciplinary Spine Assessment and Education Centre (ISAEC). Objectives of this plan include improving the patient experience, improving wait times for hip and knee replacement and spine surgery, and establishing an integrated model of care for the management of MSK-related acute and chronic pain as an alternative to opioid therapy.

Read more [here](#).

Rapid Access Addiction Clinic Expanded

With funding from the WWLHIN, the Guelph Rapid Access Addition Clinic (RAAC) has expanded to two days a week in downtown Guelph to assist people in the community who are struggling with substance dependency. The RAAC, which opened one day a week in September 2017, expanded to two days a week in February. The WWLHIN is working with community partners to open a clinic in Kitchener at the end of March, and in Cambridge later this year.

Addiction medicine physicians, addiction counsellors, and peer support workers are available at the RAAC to provide assistance on a walk-in basis. The clinics meet people on their own terms regardless of whether they want to address substance dependence, are dealing with withdrawal symptoms, or will continue to use.

More information is available [here](#).

Expanded Indigenous Seniors Day Program

To improve access to culturally safe and appropriate care, the WWLHIN board approved an expansion of the Indigenous Health and Wellness Program in Waterloo Wellington. With an additional \$100,000 in funding, an Indigenous Seniors Day Program at The Healing of Seven Generations will continue and expand to Guelph.

In addition to establishing important connections with the Indigenous community, the day program is able to connect Indigenous residents to local health services, including referrals to other community and social services.

More information is available [here](#).

Our next Board meeting will take place on March 28, 2018.

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