

## **Mississauga Halton LHIN**

### **Go Forward Strategy for Aging at Home (2008/09)**

#### **Preamble**

The Aging at Home Strategy is a provincial initiative with significant investment to help seniors stay healthy and live with dignity and independence in their home setting. In addition to strengthening existing services, it provides a rare opportunity to bring forward new ideas, engage diverse and often marginalized groups, and build a system that taps in to the capacity of communities to respond in innovative ways to support aging at home. The MH LHIN has embraced this initiative and considers “Aging at Home” one of its top priorities for the next three years.

The LHIN has developed carefully considered objectives and performance measures to ensure the province’s intent is met. The overall objectives are noted below.

#### **Overall Objectives**

- Increase community support services capacity in Mississauga Halton LHIN for seniors:
  - To provide an alternative to LTC home placement and to provide more residential options.
  - To support seniors’ to remain safely at home.
  - To promote seniors health and wellness.
- Reduce acute care pressures through reduced ALC patient days.
- Reduce unnecessary ER visits by seniors.

#### **Performance Measures**

- Reduce % of ALC patient days in hospital
- Reduce rate of ED visits by seniors that could have been managed elsewhere
- Reduce or maintain waitlist for LTC Home
- Reduce median wait time to LTC Home

## **Current Structure for Addressing Seniors Health Wellness and Quality of Life**

Currently there are two key groups addressing the Seniors' Health, Wellness and Quality of Life priority within the Mississauga Halton LHIN.

1. Seniors Health and Wellness DPA Team
2. Appropriate Level of Care (ALC) Steering Committee

The Seniors Health and Wellness DPA Team was established in October 2007 and brings together key stakeholders from across the continuum of care for seniors. The purpose of the Team is to implement the integrated service model (ASSIST) for seniors to maximize the health and independence of seniors in Mississauga Halton.

The DPA Team has been meeting regularly over the last 8 months and established 3 Task groups to complete a comprehensive environmental scan to inform the implementation of the ASSIST model and other seniors' health, wellness and quality of life priorities. This knowledge will also be used to identify service gaps (LHIN and sub-LHIN level), and opportunities for improved efficiencies and effectiveness (short-term strategies).

### ***1. Quantitative Data Analysis Task Group***

The Group developed a data collection plan to assess the current and future needs of seniors (55+) within Mississauga Halton. Currently in the process of synthesizing and analyzing the data and, developing a report.

### ***2. Inventory of Services Task Group***

The Group reviewed existing sources of information / inventories (e.g. 211, Halinet, Pinet), developed a summary of inventories, and developed an inventory of services template and glossary.

### ***3. Community Engagement Task Group***

The Group reviewed existing community engagement activities and reports, identified what communities have not been engaged, and drafted guiding principles and objectives. The Group recently completed a community engagement strategy for the Seniors Health, Wellness and Quality of Life, which has been finalized by the Core Team. (Please refer to the [Community Engagement Strategy](#) for an overview.)

## **Going Forward – Seniors Health and Wellness DPA Team and Aging at Home**

The proposed strategy is to unite the efforts of Seniors Health and Wellness DPA Team and Aging at Home Strategy.

The Seniors Health and Wellness DPA Team have now evolved into Seniors Health and Wellness Advisory Group. The Group will bring a system perspective and will provide

advice to the LHIN on strategies and initiatives aimed at improving the continuum of care for seniors.

In addition, a Core Team comprised of internal LHIN staff and external experts has been formed to oversee the implementation of the Aging at Home Strategy. Additional internal and external resources would be brought in to lead or assist in specific initiatives.

**Core Team:**

- Narendra Shah – Champion
- Priti Patel – Aging at Home Lead
- Judy Bowyer – Performance and Integration
- Dwain Dolland – Special Projects Coordinator
- Ray Applebaum – Special Project Manager
- Dr. Barbara Clive – Regional Geriatric Lead
- ALC Leader (under recruitment by ALC Committee leadership)
- Monita O'Connor – Performance and Integration and ALC / ED perspectives
- Diane Koz – Health System Development

**Key Deliverables for 2008/09**

Following are the key initiatives that will be undertaken to create an accessible, comprehensive, coordinated and sustainable continuum of care for seniors:

- Consider initiatives from the MH LHIN's Appropriate Level of Care Committee's deliberations
- Consider investments made in 2008/09 and work underway on initiatives to enable seniors to age at home
- Design, pilot and evaluate the ASSIST model.
- Conduct a focused community engagement with seniors and their families / care givers. in Summer 2008.
- Facilitate the development and implementation of a LHIN-wide transportation strategy for seniors in need of transportation to enable them to "stay at home" in collaboration with existing transportation providers.
- Identify and quantify future respite and adult day program needs of seniors
- Develop / adopt a LHIN-wide screening tool in the ED to identify seniors at risk and to trigger an appropriate plan of care to reduce return visits.
- Develop a model and implement components of specialized geriatric services in the MH LHIN.

Task Groups will be comprised of members from the Seniors Health and Wellness Advisory Group, Core Team, HSPs, and others to execute the above initiatives.