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For Immediate Release

A Winning Community –Based Solution for High-Needs Seniors

*-Supports for Daily Living Receives National Award-
An Innovative Program to Support Seniors 24/7 in their Homes*

Saves More than \$10 Million for the Local Health Care System

The Mississauga Halton Local Health Integration Network (LHIN) is proud to announce that it is the single systems-level recipient of the prestigious 3M National Award for Health Care Quality at the National Conference of Canadian Health Care Leaders, on June 7th 2011. Beating-out many other innovative and impactful programs, Mississauga Halton LHIN's Supports for Daily Living program was the recipient in the non -acute category. Graeme Goebelle, Chair of Mississauga Halton LHIN noted that this is a monumental achievement, not only for the many seniors, clients and families who have been touched by this program, but for local health care decision making in Ontario.

Supports for Daily Living (SDL) is an innovative regional service delivery model that targets high-needs seniors who want to, and are able to, continue living in their own homes with access to supports over a 24-hour period. SDL bridges the gap between scheduled home care visits and long-term care. This pioneering initiative has had proven success in reducing hospital stays for seniors, reducing unnecessary ER visits and in developing alternatives in the community to avoid long-term care home placement for seniors who do not need this level of care. The SDL program addresses the issue raised by Dr. Ben Chan, of Health Quality Ontario in an article by Rob Ferguson (Toronto Star June 2nd) on the problem of nursing home waits in Ontario. Dr Chan stated "that 22 per cent of people in nursing home beds don't really need to be there because they are not in "high need" and could be more efficiently cared for elsewhere." SDL has reduced the demand for nursing home beds by 443 clients over the past two years.

Quick Facts on SDL (April 1, 2009/March 31, 2011):

- Number of hospital days saved - 2905
- ER visits diverted -2080
- Reduced demand on long term care home waitlist – 443
- Clients moved out of long term care – 21
- Seniors Discharged from Hospital – 741

Quotes:

Hon. Deb Matthews, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care: "Our healthcare vision includes a system where those who need help to live with dignity in their own homes will get it. What local health care decision making ensures is that those high-risk seniors that need additional home care get what they need. Our vision is multi-faceted and that is why robust programs like SDL are finding solutions. Those solutions must not only tackle the problems in the ER, but more importantly, go beyond the ER and the challenges of finding the best care for patients. Supports for Daily Living achieves just that. "

Dr. Dobson, Family Physician, Oakville Senior Citizens Residence: *“When the patients are looked after in this kind of a program it gives us not only peace of mind, but we’re not tied up with having to deal with all these issues all the time. We know that there’s another pair of eyes and ears that are looking after the patient and they will be able to make assessments. We know that they’re well taken care of and there will be someone that will alert us if there’s a problem.”*

Greg Sage, Halton Chief of EMS: *“The Supports for Daily Living program is a very important initiative in a community such as ours here in Halton region that is growing very rapidly and has a large population of seniors. So certainly any program that enables those seniors to remain in their residence benefits the system in general as there’s a reduced requirement for utilization of the already busy emergency rooms, and the Supports for Daily Living program is obviously achieving those goals.”*

Dr. David Sheridan, Third Party Reviewer of the Mississauga Halton LHIN’s SDL program: *The evidence supports the notion that in the SDL program, the right care is being provided in the right setting at the right time and at the right cost. This program is having a positive impact on system costs by freeing up acute care beds and diverting people from long term care to lower cost alternatives.*

The success of this program is due to the collective engagement and efforts of all the Supports for Daily Living providers, Trillium Health Centre, Credit Valley Hospital, Halton Healthcare Services and the MH CCAC to effectively implement the program and achieve excellent results, noted Narendra Shah, COO of MH LHIN.

Award received at the National Conference of Canadian Health Care Leaders, June 7, 2011



From Left to Right: Monita O'Connor, Mississauga Halton LHIN, Kristina Hall, Nucleus Independent Living, Lisa Gammage, Nucleus Independent Living, Narendra Shah, Mississauga Halton LHIN, Angela Katunas, Oakville Senior Citizens Residence, Judy Bowyer, Mississauga Halton LHIN, Ray Applebaum, Peel Senior Link.