

# Executive Report

December 5, 2007

## Report from the OHA

### *OHA Pandemic Planning Toolkit for SRN Hospitals Now Available*

The Ontario Hospital Association (OHA) is pleased to provide members with the *OHA Pandemic Planning Toolkit for Small, Rural, and Northern (SRN) Hospitals*. A hard copy of the toolkit is being sent to all acute care hospital Chief Executive Officers (CEOs) this week. Recognizing the unique issues and challenges faced by SRN hospitals in developing emergency response plans specific to an influenza pandemic, the goals of the toolkit are to provide practical tools, templates and strategies to assist these hospitals with the development and implementation of a hospital pandemic plan.

The toolkit aims to supplement the information presented in the *Ontario Health Pandemic Influenza Plan (OHPIP)*, which was published by the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC) in 2007.

OHA members can download the toolkit from the OHA website at [www.oha.com](http://www.oha.com) as of December 14, 2007. Hard copies of the toolkit can also be ordered online by visiting [www.oha.com](http://www.oha.com), under “Communications – Publications for Sale – Publication #319” or by calling 416-205-1300. For further information about the toolkit, contact either Karen Sequeira at [ksequeira@oha.com](mailto:ksequeira@oha.com), or 416-205-1328 or Michelle Caplan at [mcaplan@oha.com](mailto:mcaplan@oha.com) or 416-205-1391.

### *OHAfrica Commemorates its Three-Year Anniversary on World AIDS Day*

Three years ago, the first team of Canadian health care professionals and HIV experts arrived at the Tsepong Clinic to work alongside with their Basotho colleagues to establish the largest HIV treatment centre in Lesotho. Tsepong means “Place of Hope” in the Sesotho language, offering hope to thousands of individuals and families.

Since its launch on World AIDS Day, December 1, 2004, OHAfrica has worked in partnership with the Government of

Lesotho to provide testing, treatment and counselling for people living with HIV/AIDS. Almost 24 per cent of adults in Lesotho between the ages of 15 and 49 are infected with the HIV virus. In 2006, OHAfrica expanded beyond Tsepong Clinic to work with 21 rural primary health centres in the surrounding district. Canadian and Basotho staff from Tsepong have provided training and support to nurses at these centres to ensure the rapid roll-out of HIV care throughout the region.

In honour of World AIDS Day (celebrated December 1<sup>st</sup>) this year, OHAfrica extends its gratitude to the dedicated individuals who have worked at Tsepong, and for the support and generosity of many Canadians who have donated their time and money to keep this important project alive. The situation of HIV and AIDS in Lesotho and globally is overwhelming, but international efforts are helping to fight this dreadful disease and bring hope to those affected.

To find out more about OHAfrica and the work in Lesotho, or to make a donation, visit [www.ohafrica.ca](http://www.ohafrica.ca) or contact Alicia Homer at [ahomer@ohafrica.ca](mailto:ahomer@ohafrica.ca) or 416-205-1463.

### *Register Today: Preparing for Health Care in 2008 Videoconference*

OHA President and CEO, Hilary Short will present *Preparing for Health Care in 2008*, a videoconference available to members from 12:30 to 2:00 pm (EST) on December 11, 2007.

The videoconference will reflect on some of the major initiatives from 2007, including the Hospital Service Accountability Agreements, the 2007 Ontario General Election, a review of the *Public Hospitals Act*, and more. Participants will have an opportunity to ask questions following the formal presentation.

To register, contact your Telehealth coordinator about the availability of your videoconferencing studio and complete the registration form found at [www.oha.com](http://www.oha.com), under “Professional Development – Distance Learning – Videoconferencing.” To participate, you must register by **December 6, 2007**. For further information, contact Todd Hutchings at [thutchings@oha.com](mailto:thutchings@oha.com) or

# Report on Health Care

## *Growing Up Ready Program for Children with Disabilities*

*Growing Up Ready* targets real-world experiences that children with disabilities often miss out on, thus hindering their independence. It is a multi-faceted program at Bloorview Kids Rehab (Bloorview) designed to help families understand the everyday experiences and skills their children need to become mature, confident adults – and how to access them.

At the centre of the program are a timetable and checklists which help increase parents' awareness of the types of activities their children need at different ages and stages, such as social and recreational activities, everyday skills and teaching children about their health needs. The program also provides education sessions led by facilitators who are parents of kids with disabilities. Bloorview's Life Skills and Wellness Institute complements the *Growing Up Ready* program with a wide range of recreation, creative, mentorship and skill-building programs for children aged seven and up.

At the tail end of the program is a demonstration clinic run by Bloorview and the Toronto Rehabilitation Institute (Toronto Rehab) that aims to ease the transition from children's to adult rehab services for teenagers, offering comprehensive, coordinated care with a network of specialists experienced in childhood-onset disabilities.

Rehabilitation centres in Sweden, Ireland, the United States and Canada have adopted elements of the program, and Ontario health accreditation surveyors recently identified it as a best practice in transitioning children with disabilities to adulthood.

## Shared Mental Health Care at SJCG

St. Joseph's Care Group's (SJCG) Community Mental Health Services staff have begun discussions with the Spence Clinic to establish another shared mental health care site. Within a "shared care model," mental health clinical staff and psychiatrists work in partnership with the family physician to support their clients who have mental health issues.

SJCG Community Mental Health Services has also been working in partnership with Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre (TBRHSC) to develop an urgent care service. People with mental

health concerns who present at the emergency department are assessed regarding severity of their illness. Over the past six months, a total of 25 individuals have been admitted to SJCG's mental health urgent care outpatient program rather than being admitted to the inpatient Adult Mental Health Unit at TBRHSC.

## St. Michael's Website Promotes Transparency and Accountability in Health Care

On November 27, 2008, St. Michael's Hospital became one of the first hospitals, and only the second teaching hospital in the province to publicly report key performance indicators in a move that will bring greater transparency and accountability to health care.

A new page on the hospital website, launched on November 28, provides information on several indicators, including patient satisfaction, wait times and infection control rates. Performance indicators, used to test and track services and quality of care, allow hospitals to monitor their performance with the aim of fostering improvements in care.

From patient satisfaction to wait times for diagnostic tests, surgeries, procedures, and infection control rates for Methicillin-resistant saphylococcus aureus (MRSA), Vancomycin-resistant Enterococcus (VRE) and clostridium difficile (C. Difficile), the hospital also provides information on physician and staff commitment, financial information and now, findings of a new indicator of patient safety known as the Hospital Standardized Mortality Ratio (HSMR).

To view the web page, visit [www.stmichaelshospital.com/indicators/index.php](http://www.stmichaelshospital.com/indicators/index.php).



# Executive Announcements

The Central West Local Health Integration Network (CW LHIN) is pleased to announce **Dr. Asim Masood**, Deputy Chief of Staff and Staff Physician of the Department of Emergency Medicine at William Osler Health Centre, as the CW

LHIN Emergency Department (ED) Lead.

**Dr. Anthony Burns** assumed the role of Medical Director at Toronto Rehab's Spinal Cord Rehabilitation Program in November 2007.

Another new appointee of Toronto Rehab is **Donna Marafioti**, who will assume the role of Vice President, Human Resources and Organizational Effectiveness in early December 2007.

Members of the Life in Balance Wellness Team at the North Simcoe Hospital Alliance (NSHA) won a gold award in the Simcoe County Workplace Wellness Network Awards.

## Report from Queen's Park

### Highlights of the Speech from the Throne

On November 29, 2007, The Honourable David Onley, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, opened the first session of the 39th parliament of Ontario with a Speech from the Throne. The speech set out, in broad strokes, the McGuinty government's legislative agenda for the medium term.

With respect to health care, the speech outlines a plan for "A Healthier Ontario," which includes a promise to "continue reducing wait times by shortening waits for emergency room visits, children's surgery and general surgery." The government will also aim to ensure the hiring of "9,000 more nurses" and "that 500,000 more Ontarians have access to a family doctor." Both wait times and access to care were cited as priorities during the Liberal government's election campaign.

Other priorities include education, reducing poverty in Ontario, creating new jobs, environmental reform and transportation, and building a stronger relationship with Ontario's First Nations.

The full text of the Throne Speech can be found on the Premier's website at [www.premier.gov.on.ca](http://www.premier.gov.on.ca).

### Premier's Office Announces Senior Staff Changes

On November 30, 2007, Chief of Staff Peter Wilkinson announced a number of senior staff changes in the Premier's Office. The changes include:

- Rod MacDonald announced his departure, and was replaced by Leon Korbee as Director of Caucus Relations;
- Matt Maychak stepped down as Executive Director of Communications;
- Gerald Butts continues as Principal Secretary and Policy Advisor to the Premier and assumes overall responsibility for Premier's Office communications;
- Press Secretary Chris Morley was appointed Executive Director of Communications, with Ben Chin as Director of Media Relations, Molly Finlay as Director of Strategic Communications and Susanne Cowan as Director of Communications Planning;
- Alex Johnston continues as Policy Director, also reporting to Gerald Butts;
- Dave Price left his role in strategic planning and operations ;
- Dave Gene joined the Premier's Office as Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations, supported by Laura Miller as Director of Operations, responsible for tour correspondence and regional desks;
- Deb Roberts assumed the position of Deputy Chief of Staff for Human Resources and Public Appointments, with Jen Norman reporting to her as Director of Human Resources and Labour Advisor;
- Tracey Sobers continues as the Premier's Executive Assistant; and,
- Aaron Lazarus continues as Director of Legislative Affairs.



# OHA Conferences

## Wired for Safety: Advancing Patient Safety through e-Health January 18, 2008 Toronto

With information technologies becoming increasingly sophisticated, more opportunities to improve patient safety and quality care are emerging. The application of e-Health is considered an integral component of most patient safety practices.

Examining the relationship between e-Health and patient safety helps identify the current trends, challenges and benefits for care providers and their patients. This conference will highlight the state of e-Health today and its contributions to patient safety, and will look at a number of organizations that have implemented successful e-Health applications. Participants at this conference will hear from leaders in the field about innovative strategies leveraging e-Health to enhance patient outcomes. **For further information, contact Shannon Byck at [sbyck@oha.com](mailto:sbyck@oha.com) or 416-205-1357.**

## The LHIN Agenda and the New Government January 25, 2008 Toronto

This conference provides a perfect opportunity to assess Ontario's new Local Health Integration Networks (LHINs), their progress and their future agenda. LHINs have assumed funding authority over a significant portion of the MOHLTC's overall budget. This conference will examine the extent LHINs can be used to make real changes in program delivery and how. How much autonomy are LHINs likely to be given in their decision-making? Have they been given the tools to be successful? How will progress be evaluated with this "made in Ontario" model? What can we learn from the experience of Cancer Care Ontario and from other jurisdictions? How should decisions be made on clinical program distribution?

Featuring a variety of LHIN leaders and MOHLTC and external perspectives, this conference will provide insights on the challenges facing the Ontario health care system as it continues to evolve, and the roles LHINs and their provider partners could play in meeting those challenges. **For further information, contact Shannon Byck at [sbyck@oha.com](mailto:sbyck@oha.com) or 416-205-1357**

## Beyond SPAI: What's New in Peri-operative Care? January 31, 2008 Toronto

In October 2004, the MOHLTC established the Surgical Process

Analysis and Improvement (SPAI) Expert Panel to recommend a plan to improve surgical efficiencies in Ontario's hospitals. The panel advised the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care through Dr. Alan Hudson, Lead of Access to Services and Wait Times.

This conference will inform participants about the latest developments in peri-operative services. Topics include an overview and evaluation of the coaching process; coaching common themes; and a look at alternative care providers - Physician Assistants and Anesthesia Care Teams. In the afternoon, participants will be able to participate in two concurrent workshops with topics including the Wait Time Information System (WTIS) or coaching. The day will close with a look ahead by Hugh MacLeod, Assistant Deputy Minister, Health System Accountability and Performance Division, MOHLTC. **For further information, contact Sara Simone at [ssimone@oha.com](mailto:ssimone@oha.com) or 416-205-1314.**

## Educating Staff and Engaging Patients in Patient Safety February 4, 2008 Toronto

Educating staff and engaging patients is a high priority for health care professionals and is supported by national organizations, such as the Canadian Council on Health Services Accreditation (CCHSA) and the Canadian Patient Safety Institute (CPSI). The CCHSA has introduced two Required Organizational Practices (ROPs) mandating organizations to deliver education/training on patient safety to staff and to inform and educate patients about their role in patient safety. And, recently, the CPSI released a DVD series entitled, *Delivering Patient Safety*.

Chaired by Dr. Jim Worthington, participants will have the opportunity to hear from leaders in the field including Dr. James Reason who will be joining via live video broadcast, and Dr. Robert Buckman, a medical oncologist who will focus on communicating with patients. Segments of the CPSI DVD series will also be incorporated into the session. **For further information, contact Kerry Vincent at [kvincent@oha.com](mailto:kvincent@oha.com) or 416-205-1306.**

## Fraud in Health Care February 8, 2008 Toronto

Health care fraud and abuse have become more prominent. This session, co-chaired by Jim Patterson, Partner at Bennett Jones

*(continued on next page)*

# OHA Conferences (continued)

LLP and Shannon MacDonald, Partner and National Health Services Leader at Deloitte, will provide critical insight into fraud awareness, prevention, risk assessment and response. Participants will hear from leading experts, engage in a panel case discussion on common fraud schemes, explore a fraud prevention framework, determine an appropriate course of action when faced with fraud, and look at the obligations of hospital boards when fraud is detected. For further information, contact Sara Simone at [ssimone@oha.com](mailto:ssimone@oha.com) or 416-205-1314.

## Moving Towards Effective Disease Management and Prevention Strategies in Ontario February 29, 2008 Toronto

One in three Ontarians lives with a chronic illness. The prevalence of chronic illness means that, the successful management and prevention of chronic disease is emerging as a top priority for all levels of government and health providers.

Chaired by Dr. Matthew Morgan, Partner, Courtyard Group, this conference will look at the progress being made in the approaches to chronic disease management and prevention strategies being employed. It will discuss the need for health care providers to communicate with each other and attain the necessary resources and technologies to better assist patients and their caregivers in managing in their illness. Participants will have the opportunity to benefit from the experience of others and participate in discussions with a variety of speakers representing perspectives from British Columbia, Alberta, the United States and Ontario. Participants will also have the opportunity to join a discussion with representatives from hospitals, Family Health Teams and Community Care Access Centres. For further information, contact Sara Simone at [ssimone@oha.com](mailto:ssimone@oha.com) or 416-205-1314.

## Region 1 Annual Educational Conferences 2008

Mark your calendars now and join us in April to attend educational sessions, meet with decision-makers, network with peers, conduct regional business, and view exhibits offering current and new health care products and services.

The North East/ North Central Sub-Region Conference will be held on April 2-4, 2008, in Sudbury. The North West Sub-Region Conference will take place on April 16-18, 2008, in Thunder Bay. Topics and speakers will be announced shortly. For further information, contact Joanne Grzywna [jgrzywna@oha.com](mailto:jgrzywna@oha.com) or 416-205-1341 or 1-800-598-8002, ext. 1341.

## Designing and Delivering Effective Training Programs April 7 to 11, 2008 Toronto

The demand for high quality continuing education, orientation and patient education programs in acute care, long-term care (LTC) and community settings continues to grow. As a result, more professionals with applicable design and implementation skills are needed to provide these services. This five-day program, presented by the OHA and the Registered Nurses Association of Ontario (RNAO), is primarily directed at registered nurses and other health care professionals who train individuals through staff development or patient education programs in hospitals, LTC facilities, community agencies, community colleges and professional organizations.

The course is designed to be highly interactive and experiential in nature. There will be an opportunity to share the experience and expertise among the group. For further information, contact Marisa Bavaro at [mbavaro@oha.com](mailto:mbavaro@oha.com) or 416-205-1309.



200 Front Street West, Ste. 2800  
Toronto, ON M5V 3L1  
Tel: 416 205 1300  
Fax: 416 205 1360  
[www.oha.com](http://www.oha.com)

## Executive Report

The Executive Report is a weekly publication of the OHA

Editor:  
Tamarah Harel  
416 205 1346  
[tharel@oha.com](mailto:tharel@oha.com)