

# Community Health Ontario

*Partnership to build community services*

Suite 104, 970 Lawrence Avenue West, Toronto, Ontario, M6N 3B6  
Tel: 416-256-3010 1-800-267-OCSA 6272) Fax: 416-256-3021

Melanie Fraser  
Associate Deputy Minister, Health Services  
10<sup>th</sup> Floor Hepburn Block  
80 Grosvenor St.  
Toronto, Ontario M7A 2C4

March 20, 2019

Dear Ms. Fraser,

On behalf of Community Health Ontario (CHO), thank you for the ministry's ongoing commitment to meeting and consulting with representatives of the community-based health sector throughout the process of Ontario's health system transformation. As you are aware, CHO represents a partnership between Addictions and Mental Health Ontario, Children's Mental Health Ontario, the Canadian Mental Health Association Ontario Division, the Ontario Community Support Association, the Alliance for Healthier Communities, and AdvantAge Ontario.

CHO wants to thank the Ministry for making community-based health care a priority and recognizing the important work of Ontario's community-based providers in reducing unnecessary hospital stays. CHO looks forward to making significant contributions to the ministry's overall mandate to reduce unnecessary costs, find efficiencies, and put an end to hallway healthcare.

Given the government's recent announcements regarding the *People's Health Care Act*, Ontario Health, and Ontario Health Teams, we would like to engage with you to obtain additional clarity on several issues relating to the role and powers of the LHINs in this changing health care landscape.

CHO believes there is substantial opportunity to deliver significantly improved integrated care and client experience across care settings in Ontario and is eager to participate in that discussion. Our immediate correspondence relates to operational questions that have been raised across our membership and to which collectively, we do not believe to have the answer.

- 1) Given the recent announcement of the appointment of the Ontario Health Board of Directors, and subsequent dissolution of the LHIN Boards, we would appreciate some direction with respect to the role of the LHINs over the short and long-term. Specifically, if you could provide comment to help direct community health service providers on the current role of the LHINs on our ongoing operations, introduction of new initiatives, and potential changes to accountability agreements, it would be very helpful.

- 2) Some LHINs are moving forward with integration structures that are potentially outside of the planning of the Ontario Health Team model. As you are aware, the SE LHIN has put forward a re-structuring plan that would encompass all community providers. This is not the direction other LHINs are taking. It would be helpful for us to communicate some direction to our members within that LHIN, so that they may understand what is expected of them.
- 3) We would benefit from understanding your expectation on the upcoming signing of both the Multi-Sector Accountability Agreements and the Long-Term Care Home Accountability Agreements, under which we currently operate. As you know, the MSAA template in particular was developed over a lengthy consultation period and was endorsed by all parties. The community HSPs are required to sign these agreements by March 31, 2019. We would benefit from some clarity on who the immediate other signatories would be. Further, as organizations holding these three-year accountability agreements potentially transition as they enter the Ontario Health Team model, clarity around how these agreements will also transition is helpful.
- 4) As you know, the child and youth mental health sector is being transitioned into the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care. Transfer payment agreements for this sector are currently housed in the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services. We would appreciate some clarity on when and where these accountability agreements will be moved. We think it is of crucial importance that the child and youth mental health sector is governed in the same structures as other community organizations to enable integration opportunities.

Moving forward, we would like to offer CHO's full support to you and your team. Our organization stands ready to provide you with briefings about key issues in community health, along with overall policy and communications support. We would also be pleased to meet with you in-person to discuss the matters raised in this letter in greater detail. Please feel free to contact us directly through Camille Quenneville, CEO of CMHA Ontario at [cquenneville@ontario.cmha.ca](mailto:cquenneville@ontario.cmha.ca) or 416-920-1355.

Sincerely,



Adrienne Spafford  
CEO  
Addictions and Mental Health Ontario



Kimberly Moran  
CEO  
Children's Mental Health Ontario



Ms. Fraser  
March 20, 2019  
Page 3



Deborah Simon  
CEO  
Ontario Community Support Association



Camille Quenneville  
CEO  
Canadian Mental Health Association, Ontario



Adrianna Tetley  
CEO  
Alliance for Healthier Communities



Lisa Levin  
CEO  
AdvantAge Ontario



Cc: Tim Hadwen, Assistant Deputy Minister, Community, Mental Health and Addictions,  
French Language Services  
Brian Pollard, Assistant Deputy Minister, Long-Term Care Homes  
Heather Watt, Chief of Staff to the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care  
Charles Lammam, Director of Policy, Minister's Office  
Laurel Brazill, Director of Stakeholder Relations, Minister's Office