

Integrated Specialized Geriatric Services (SGS) in North Simcoe Muskoka

February 8, 2016

SGS Background

The North Simcoe Muskoka Local Health Integration Network (NSM LHIN) has identified the development of an integrated regional Specialized Geriatric Services Program as a priority project. This will be the first project to start as part of a broader integrated regional Seniors' Health Program. Waypoint Centre for Mental Health Care has been chosen as the lead agency. Focused on frail seniors and their caregivers, planning and design of the Specialized Geriatric Services Program will be a collaborative process between the LHIN, Waypoint, health service providers, physicians, seniors, caregivers and other key partners.

Director, Specialized Geriatrics Services Announcement

Following an extensive recruitment process, we are pleased to announce that Sandra Eason-Bruno, RN, MN GNC(C) has accepted the role of Director, NSM Specialized Geriatric Services Program. As a Registered Nurse with certification in Gerontological Nursing since 2002, Sandra has been a champion of change for both seniors' health and Specialized Geriatric Services for twenty years.

As the NSM LHIN lead for seniors health she supported numerous Ministry and LHIN initiatives including Behaviours, Assess & Restore and the Senior Friendly Hospital Strategy. She was instrumental in the development of the 2014 Specialized Geriatric Services Strategy document, supported the 2014 North Simcoe Muskoka review of thirteen targeted seniors programs and was a member of a Ministry/LHIN Committee reviewing Specialized Geriatric Services across the province.

In addition to health system planning experience, Sandra has extensive clinical and leadership experience in developing and implementing Specialized Geriatric Services. Prior to joining the LHIN in 2010, Sandra was the NSM Project Director for Seniors Health and developed the NSM Integrated Regional Falls Program. As a Clinical Nurse Specialist for twelve years, she worked at the Royal Victoria Regional Health Centre (RVH) and in several Toronto hospitals developing programs, building teams and improving the care of frail seniors.

Sandra has positive relationships with health service providers across the NSM region and is an innovative, enthusiastic team player. Welcome Sandra to your new role! Your experience will be a great asset to moving the Specialized Geriatric Services Program forward.

Seniors' Health Project Team

The Seniors Health Project Team will support the development of an integrated regional Seniors Health Program, starting with the planning and implementation of the NSM Specialized Geriatric Services Program. The Project Team will be an advisory body to the LHIN and Lead Agency, Waypoint, as co-leads of the program. The team will be accountable for regional system recommendations and ensuring planning and implementation advance in alignment with project charter(s). Comprised of strategic leaders, the Project Team will use best evidence and system knowledge to inform recommendations that take into consideration the perspectives of NSM seniors and their caregivers, health service providers, organizations as well as the health system, including value for money.

The group held its first meetings on January 15 and 29 and will continue to meet monthly. Early work for the Project Team has focused on finalizing Terms of Reference and a Project Charter, as well as receiving updates on key committee work, such as Assess & Restore, Behaviours and the Senior Friendly Hospital Strategy. The group has also reviewed the initial communications plan, budget and work plan.

Seniors Health Project Team Membership

Name	Organization
Carol Lambie (Co-Chair)	Waypoint Centre for Mental Health Care
Neil Walker (Co-Chair)	NSM LHIN
Deborah Duncan-Randal (Waypoint Liaison)	Waypoint Centre for Mental Health Care
<i>TBD</i> (LHIN Liaison)	NSM LHIN
Sandra Easson-Bruno	Director, NSM SGS Program
Dr. Kevin Young	Physician Lead, NSM SGS Program
Anita Chevalier	Collingwood General and Marine Hospital
Cheryl Harrison	Orillia Soldiers' Memorial Hospital
Karen Taillefer	NSM CCAC
Lynn Sharer	Algonquin Family Health Team
Christine Colcy	Barrie Community Health Centre
Karie Warnar	Barrie Health Link
Stephanie Walpole	The Villa Care Centre – Jarlette Health Services
Jane Sinclair	County of Simcoe
Debbie Islam	Alzheimer Society of Simcoe County
Steven Rebellato	Simcoe-Muskoka District Health Unit; McMaster University