

Waypoint Centre for Mental Health Care Proposed Lead Agency for Specialized Geriatric Services in North Simcoe Muskoka

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In response to input from stakeholders, the North Simcoe Muskoka Local Health Integration Network (NSM LHIN) identified the need for an integrated regional Specialized Geriatric Services program as a priority for improving wellness and the quality of life for frail seniors and their caregivers. Following a thorough request for proposal process, the North Simcoe Muskoka Local Health Integration Network (NSM LHIN) is pleased to announce Waypoint Centre for Mental Health Care as the proposed Lead Agency for the planning and implementation of the integrated regional Specialized Geriatric Services program in North Simcoe Muskoka, the first building block of a broader integrated regional seniors health program.

Providing leadership to the NSM LHIN's Mental Health & Addiction Coordinating Council over the past five years, Waypoint has successfully engaged area providers and partners to improve the quality of care and programming available to those living with mental illness. With a robust organizational structure that includes strong project management, clinical services planning, a research and academics team, academic affiliations and a highly experienced information technology team, Waypoint is well positioned to coordinate and support regional planning. Design of the integrated program to best meet the needs of frail seniors in North Simcoe Muskoka will be a collaborative process between health service providers, physicians, seniors, caregivers and other key partners.

Waypoint also partnered with Providence Healthcare, a leader in providing rehabilitation, palliative care, long-term care and community programs on the proposal and will be continuing to access their expertise. Through the leadership of Carol Lambie, Waypoint President and Chief Executive Officer, the LHIN is confident Waypoint will continue to build on its reputation as a partnering organization, leader in innovative solutions and key provider of geriatric psychiatry services in North Simcoe Muskoka. Waypoint will be responsible for oversight of the program from a financial, administrative, evaluative and reporting perspective.

The NSM LHIN would like to recognize all agencies that expressed interest in the Lead Agency role. The caliber and quality of the submissions exceeded expectations. The proposal process showcased the great strengths of the organizations across North Simcoe Muskoka and demonstrated commitment to ensuring a collaborative approach to system planning and implementation.

QUOTES

“The North Simcoe Muskoka LHIN wants to extend our thanks to Carol and her team for their commitment to overseeing the development and implementation of Specialized Geriatric Services in North Simcoe Muskoka. Along with Dr. Kevin Young, Physician Lead, Seniors Health and Tamara Nowak-Lennard, Regional Clinical Nurse Specialist, Seniors Health, access to coordinated, quality care through the NSM Specialized Geriatric Services program, will soon be available for frail seniors.”

- **Jill Tettmann, Chief Executive Officer, North Simcoe Muskoka Local Health Integration Network**

“Waypoint is pleased to partner in our region’s vision to improve wellness, independence and quality of life for people who are aging. The organizations involved in specialized geriatric services have a strong history of working together and improving access, efficiency and effectiveness is something we all support. As the lead agency, we look forward to continuing the collaborative efforts underway to develop an integrated program for specialized geriatric services for frail seniors in our communities.”

- **Carol Lambie, President & Chief Executive Officer, Waypoint Centre for Mental Health Care**

“Identifying a lead agency is a very important start to a series of changes that will help establish a more effective and locally accessible specialized geriatric services.”

- **Dr. Kevin Young, North Simcoe Muskoka Physician Lead, Seniors Health**

“It is with great enthusiasm that I welcome Waypoint as the lead agency for Specialized Geriatric Services. This is an important building block to moving an integrated regional seniors health program forward – beginning with the provision of evidence-based regional and local care to our frail seniors population.”

- **Tamara Nowak-Lennard, North Simcoe Muskoka Regional Clinical Nurse Specialist, Seniors Health**

QUICK FACTS

- Specialized Geriatric Services (SGS) are coordinated health care services that improve the health, independence and quality of life of frail seniors with complex health needs.
- Well-designed Specialized Geriatric Services (SGS) help people live longer, remain safely at home, improve physical and mental health well-being and come home from the hospital sooner.
- There are over 75,000 seniors living in North Simcoe Muskoka.

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For further information on seniors care in North Simcoe Muskoka, please visit [Seniors Care Strategy](#).