



Eastern York Region and North Durham Ontario Health Team receives approval

For immediate release

Markham, ON (July 18, 2019) - Markham Stouffville Hospital (MSH) along with the members of the Connecting Care Task Force for the Eastern York Region and North Durham catchment area received approval from the Ministry of Health (Ministry) to move forward with the development of an Ontario Health Team (OHT).

Today, the Ministry announced 31 groups out of over 150 applicants received approval to move forward with the full application in their quest to become an official OHT. An OHT are groups of healthcare providers (even if they are not in the same organization or physical location) that work together as a team to deliver a full and coordinated continuum of care for all citizens in a defined catchment area.

“It’s an exciting time to be working in healthcare. The landscape is changing and the focus is shifting to ensure patients have seamless access to care whether they are in hospital or in the community,” says Dr. Sarah Barclay, family physician in Stouffville and one of the dozens of primary care physicians supporting the development of an OHT in Eastern York Region and North Durham.

The Connecting Care Task Force submitted a readiness assessment application in the spring that focused on the development of an OHT for **mental health and addictions, and dementia for patients and their caregivers within the Eastern York Region and North Durham catchment.**

“We are excited to move ahead to the full application stage. Working together with our partners, we are well positioned to change the future of healthcare – to put patients at the centre of their care. And in doing so, create an integrated health system for all citizens of Markham, Stouffville, Thornhill, Uxbridge and Brock areas,” says Jo-anne Marr, President and CEO, MSH.

The Connecting Care Task Force members include patients/clients, families and caregivers, Markham Stouffville Hospital, family physicians and community service agencies such as: 360 Kids, Addiction Services for York Region, Alzheimer Society of York Region, Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA) – York Region and South Simcoe, Carefirst Seniors and Community Services Association, CHATS, Krasman Centre, LOFT, Restore Canada and York Support Services.

Patient/clients, families and caregivers play an integral role in the development of the OHT. Their involvement at every each stage of the process helps guide and inform the development of the Eastern York Region and North Durham OHT.

"This is excellent news for everyone in our community. This collaboration ensures that family physicians, local community agencies and the hospital are able to leverage their expertise and support people using their services. Congratulations on your teamwork," says Dylan de la Riviere, person with lived experience of mental health and addictions.

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About Markham Stouffville Hospital

Markham Stouffville Hospital (MSH) is one of Ontario's leading community hospitals. Across its two sites (Markham and Uxbridge) and the Reactivation Care Centre (RCC), the hospital has 329 beds and provides high quality, patient-centred care to more than 402,000 patients each year. It offers diagnostic and emergency services and delivers clinical programs in acute care medicine and surgery, addictions and mental health, and childbirth and children's services.

At MSH, 560 physicians, 25 midwives, 2,300 staff and 1,200 volunteers serve patients and families with an *honoured to care* mindset. The hospital partners with other providers to take this care beyond its walls and deliver an extraordinary patient experience to the residents of Markham, Whitchurch-Stouffville, Uxbridge and beyond.

For more information: visit www.msh.on.ca.

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