

# INITIATIVE AIMS TO UNITE HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS

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Ontario has announced a new initiative aimed at bringing local health-care providers together to make it easier for patients to move from one health-related service to another.

Oakville North-Burlington MPP Effie Triantafilopoulos and Oakville MPP Stephen Crawford visited Acclaim Health's Oakville Adult Day Program at Sheridan College on Friday, Dec. 6 to unveil the Connected Care Halton Ontario Health Team.

The Halton team is one of the first 24 teams in the province to implement a new health care model that aims to better connect patients and providers in their communities.

Through an Ontario Health Team, Triantafilopoulos said, patients will

experience easier transitions from one provider to another, including, for example, between hospitals and home-care providers, with one patient record and one care plan.

"Today is a significant day for the future of health care right here in Halton and a significant day for the future of health care across Ontario," said Triantafilopoulos.

"We are fortunate to have some of the finest health-care professionals dedicated to delivering the highest quality care right here in Halton and across Ontario, but we all know the health-care system is facing capacity pressures and patients and families are getting lost in the health-care system. They are falling through the cracks, waiting too long to get the care they need. That's why our govern-

ment made a commitment to Ontarians to build a sustainable and connected public health-care system focused on the needs of patients and truly ending hallway health care."

Triantafilopoulos said the Ontario Health Teams will be responsible for delivering care, understanding patients' health-care history, directly connecting them to the different types of care they need, and providing 24-7 help in navigating the health-care system.

She said the first wave of Ontario Health Teams, including the Halton team, is being approved after an extensive readiness assessment process, which involved significant collaboration and research from partners across the health-care sector.

The Halton team is scheduled to begin imple-



David Lea/Torstar  
Oakville North-Burlington MPP Effie Triantafilopoulos speaks at Acclaim Health unveiling the new Connected Care Halton Ontario Health Team.

menting its proposed programs and services in 2020 and will communicate with patients and families about the changes they can expect.

The team will initially focus on palliative care, mental health and addic-

tions, and home and community care.

Over time, the team will provide care for everyone within the Connected Care Halton Ontario Health Team's population, which is estimated to be about 400,000 people.

"Better integrated care is only possible when patients and health care system partners design solutions together," said Angela Brewer, Acclaim Health CEO and Halton Ontario Health Team partner.

"Acclaim Health is excited to be moving ahead with our partners to use our knowledge of the home and community care sector to help bring the Connected Care Halton Ontario Health Team vision to life."

Halton Region chief administrative officer Jane MacCaskill said the launch of the Halton team is a crit-

ical step forward to improving the patient experience and health outcomes in Halton's growing community.

The region's Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Hamidah Meghani said Halton Healthcare, the Mississauga/Halton LHIN, Halton Region, Acclaim Health and Oakville-based physician Dr. Kristianna Martiniuk submitted an application to the province to form the Ontario Health Team in Halton.

She said these partners are confident the establishment of an Ontario Health Team in this community will be a significant advancement toward connecting care and achieving the government's quadruple aim for health, which includes:

- Improving the patient and caregiver experience;
- Improving the health of populations;
- Reducing the per capita cost of health care;
- Improving the work life of providers.

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