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Health care plan launched

A plan that paves the way for better co-ordination of local health services was launched this week.

The document, entitled the Integrated Health Service Plan (IHSP), was prepared by the Mississauga Halton Local Health Integration Network (LHIN) after consulting with over 3,000 residents and health service providers.

"The strategic priorities outlined in the report reflect the views, opinions and priorities of local residents and clearly addresses the specific health needs of our communities," said Mississauga Halton LHIN board chair John Magill.

The IHSP highlights strategic health priorities, enabling strategies and local solutions to provincial initiatives for Halton Hills, Milton, Oakville, Mississauga and south Etobicoke.

Mississauga Halton LHIN CEO Michael Fenn emphasized that the IHSP lays the foundation for a new health service delivery system.

"This plan aims to put patients, their families and residents in each of our local communities at the centre of health care delivery and health planning," he said. "By engaging health service providers, nurses, doctors and health care workers, we will improve the way our local health system serves seniors, mothers and children, people dealing with mental illness and addictions and residents who suffer from long-term medical conditions."

Improved access

In addition to providing for better co-ordination of health services, the IHSP also improves access by enabling patients to see the right service provider at the right time.

Integrating services will shorten wait times and let patients move smoothly from one service to the next without difficulty or delay.

"The IHSP is a strategic health care roadmap that helps people stay healthy, delivers good care to them when they get sick and will be there for their children and grandchildren," said Magill. "As a key driver of health system change, the LHIN has a very important leadership role to play on behalf of the community in making sure we accomplish the goals set out in the IHSP."

Fenn noted that the community will continue to be involved in planning.

"The completion of the IHSP is already a great accomplishment and will shape service delivery that focuses on the patient for many years to come," he said. "We will continue to work with community residents, health service providers and our partners in every step of this journey to transform Ontario's health care system."

The Mississauga Halton LHIN is one of fourteen LHIN organizations created across Ontario by the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care.

LHINs have been established as a vehicle to plan, co-ordinate, integrate, fund and monitor local health care services and offer innovative responses to some of the significant challenges now facing the Ontario health care system.