

CONNECTING THE DOHT

Official newsletter of The Durham Ontario Health Team

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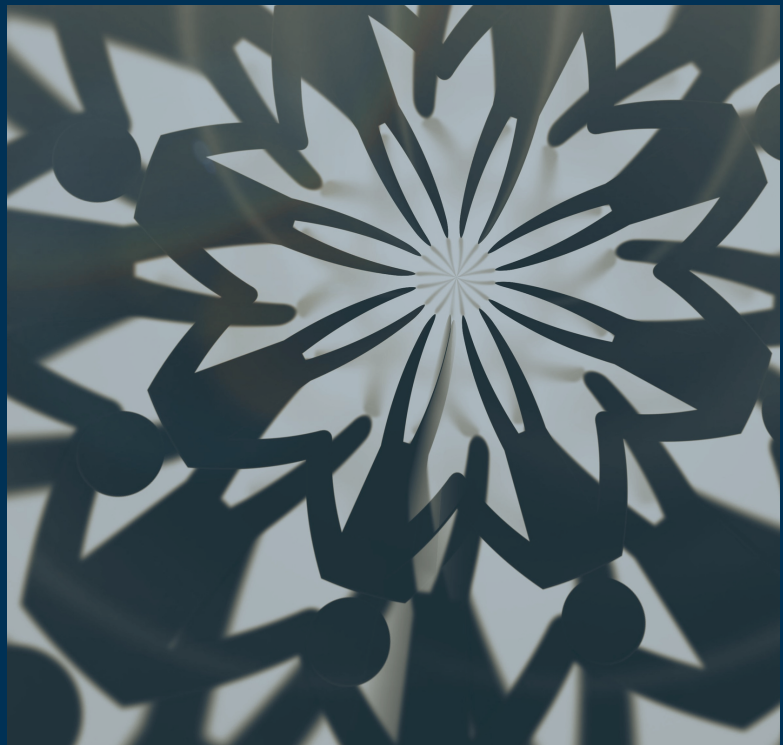
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WELCOME

Written by:
Diana Raymond-Watts,
Strategic Implementation
Lead, Durham OHT.

Welcome to the quarterly Durham Ontario Health Team newsletter! In this issue, we will be drawing attention to the work being done by one of our Partners, The Victorian Order of Nurses (VON). Additionally, we welcome our new Primary Care co-leads and say goodbye to our partners transitioning to retirement, provide updates to keep you in-the-know, and call for members to join the Durham OHT Patient, Family and Care Partner Advisory Council (PFCPAC).

PARTNER SPOTLIGHT ~ VICTORIA ORDER OF NURSES (VON)



Written by Melanie Pledger, Student, DOHT

One of our Durham Ontario Health Team students, Miriam Kesela, in her 2nd year health sciences at Ontario Tech, had the opportunity to spend a day with the Durham Victoria Order of Nurses (VON) at their office on Dundas Street. Throughout the day, she met with key members of the VON team to learn about the programs offered, resources available for those in the community, and volunteerism within the organization.

To begin, Miriam spoke with Palliative Care Coordinator Kaitlin Brown about the Day Hospice Program, which enables individuals living with life limiting illness to connect, share, and learn in a safe environment with their peers— caregivers are also welcome. VON Durham also works to deliver the Palliative Pain and Symptom Management Consultation Service to health service providers in the community. Registered Nurses consult, educate, support, and mentor these providers in advanced palliative care in order to bolster expertise in the delivery of palliative care.

Sarah Hadfield, Program Supervisor, was happy to share the return of in-person visitations as of September, including 1:1 matches and peer support groups. Grief and bereavement support is available for those who have lost someone— whether it be a spouse, friend, parent, or pet, VON Durham provides trained volunteers to support clients in groups or private settings. A database of volunteers exists who will be matched to participants based on common interests for a social visit. Most recently, the Children and Teens Bereavement and Support Program has been launched, including a support group for children aged 6-17 as well as a group for guardians of grieving children and teens. Additionally, VON's C.A.R.E. program (Caregivers Achieving Resilience and Empowerment) is recruiting volunteers with firsthand caregiving experience to support those currently in a position of providing care.

VON will continue to offer and support hybrid programs to reach the largest number of clients possible. As mentioned, it is also looking to bolster its 200+ strong volunteer network to expand its reach beyond the 550 individuals and families served in 2021. Volunteer Program Coordinator Tanya Bahnesli works tirelessly to vet each volunteer before ultimately deciding their best placement, working from a list of clients assembled by Intake Team Lead Maria Tayag. Employees and volunteers are at the heart of everything VON does, so recruitment and retention are essential to developing a healthy workforce and in turn, a healthy community.

" I had a great day, and the staff was amazing! Appreciate everyone for taking time out of their busy schedule to teach me more about the VON."

-Miriam Kesela



PRIMARY CARE CO-LEADS

WELCOME

Written by Diana Raymond-Watts

The Durham OHT is pleased to welcome Dr. Rebecca Wray who will be joining Dr. Lubna Tirmizi as one of our

OHT's Primary Care co-Leads. Together, and in collaboration with members of Durham's diverse primary care community, Drs. Tirmizi and Wray will provide expert clinical leadership to advance the Durham OHT's focus on improving access to and delivery of comprehensive health services.

We have many goals for this coming year, which includes establishing a formal Primary Care Association and implementing Durham OHT's first Primary Care Physician Strategy. In their roles as Primary Care Co-leads, Drs. Tirmizi and Wray will serve as co-Chairs of the Durham OHT Primary Care Advisory Council and represent the primary care sector as members of the Durham OHT Executive Leadership Table.

This is Not Good-Bye but Good Luck!

Thank you to our partners who have transitioned to their next chapter ~ Retirement:

- Denyse Newton (ASDR) – Retired August 2022
- Lori Cooper (VON) – Retired September 2022 (continues working with the DOHT)
- Joyce Perrin (PFCPAC) – Retiring November 2022
- Heather Smith (PICN) – Retiring November 2022
- Lorraine Sunstrum-Mann (Grandview Kids) – Retiring March 2023

We are sad to see them leave us however, we are in good hands, as we welcomed:

- Gillian Barrie from the Alzheimer's Society of Durham Region
- Deborah Lemon from Partners in Community Nursing.

Of course, a big thank you to Diana Raymond-Watts, Strategic Implementation Lead, for her integral role in establishing the foundation for the Durham OHT. Diana has provided steady leadership and support to the entire Durham OHT and has advanced many key deliverables.



Dr. Rebecca Wray



Dr. Lubna Tirmizi



UPDATES FROM THE DOHT

Written by Cecilia Craig

Capstone and Student Resources

Durham OHT, Promoting Learning for our Future Talent

The Durham OHT was selected to host two Capstone projects with Metropolitan Toronto University and Ontario Tech University. These capstone projects began in September in parallel with our Leading Project soft launch timelines.

The Durham OHT recruited three students over the summer to work on our web design, communications and health population and navigation services. Since onboarding the students, several project milestones have been completed including:

- Developing a stand-alone Durham OHT website and an enhanced collaborative workspace;
- Creating a community magnet; and
- Developing a physician and clinic database with over 300 physician email contacts

We continue to have student support throughout the year and hope to onboard another capstone project for January to focus on our brand identity.

Collaborative Quality Improvement Plan (cQIP)

The Durham Ontario Health Team in collaboration with the Central East Regional Cancer Program's Screening and Prevention Team recently hosted a HPV and Pap Test Competency Workshop. This workshop is intended to increase the number of front-line providers that are able to offer HPV and Pap Tests to those in the Durham Region. By expanding the number of providers, more individuals with a cervix (women, transgender, and non-binary) are able to receive this essential cancer screening. Dr. Nathan Roth, Regional Cervical Screening and Colposcopy Lead, facilitated this session to 20 front-line providers with accolades in the feedback received, with one participant noting "So glad I attended. It renewed my drive to get patients screened!"

GET INVOLVED!

Written by

Joyce Perrin, Co-Chair of the Patient, Family, and Care Partner Council

Greetings from the Patient, Family, and Care Partners Council. We are a group of interested volunteers who dedicate our time and energies to share our thoughts during the planning process of delivering care to patients in the Durham Region of the Ontario Health Team (OHT).

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The satisfaction of seeing these ideas implemented and the resulting improved hospital and community health care is meaningful and fulfilling on many fronts.

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Gathering the community voices of the patients, families, and care partners, we share their comments with those planning and structuring how health care is delivered in our community.

I have been fortunate to be involved in the Durham OHT since its inception four years ago. Being able to share my thoughts and ideas from the community, patient, family, and caregiver perspective is rewarding. For me, the satisfaction of seeing these ideas implemented and the resulting improved hospital and community health care is meaningful and fulfilling on many fronts. Two gratifying feelings are meeting dedicated people working on behalf of better patient experiences and the personal fulfillment of making a difference long after I have turned the torch over to others.

We are looking to add community volunteer members to our Council and encourage Collaboration Council members to contact the backbone team with names of people to approach from your council membership.

Thanks for your support; you can make a difference in the lives of others.

Joyce