

Central West health care groups win prestigious award

The Central West Community Care Access Centre (CCAC), Headwaters Health Care Centre (Headwaters) and William Osler Health System (Osler) have won the 2014 Award in Leading Governance Excellence through the Ontario Hospital Association's (OHA) Governance Centre of Excellence.

The award recognizes the organizations' Boards of Directors for their work in developing a Strategic Partnership Committee to support the creation of a more unified health care system to better serve patients and families in the Central West region. The announcement was made during an education session at OHA HealthAchieve Nov. 3, at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre. ?This award is a testament to the impact this partnership has and will continue to have on health care in the Central West region,? said Headwaters Board Chair Rob Hamilton. ?It acknowledges that we are leading the way by creating innovative partnerships through cross-sector integration, and building a system to put patients first.?

The joint Strategic Partnership Committee is the first of its kind in the province and is tasked with fostering solutions to some of health care's more challenging issues. These include improving transitions between hospital and community care and sharing of records and patient information. The committee is also focused on developing ways to improve patient care and access to health care services in the region, promote efficiency within administrative functions and align the performance and accountability of the three organizations.

?The Strategic Partnership Committee is a reflection of the commitment each organization has to creating a truly unified health care system and we are delighted that this award validates that,? said CCAC Board Chair Carmine Domanico. ?By working more closely together than ever before, we are building a system that is more responsive to the needs of patients today and more sustainable for generations to come.?

In August, CCAC, Headwaters and Osler integrated the three organization's non-clinical support functions ? an initiative that was proposed by the Strategic Partnership Committee to maximize talent and resources.

?The creation of the governance partnership was a natural extension of the work and partnerships already in place at the front lines of these three organizations,? said Osler Board Chair John Davies. ?This initiative provides an unprecedented opportunity to explore new forms of partnership, joint investment opportunities, and improve our combined ability to meet the health care needs of the patients and families we serve, now and into the future. We are truly honoured to be recognized for this work.?