



NEWS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Patient and Family Advisory Council seeking patient partners with an interest in maternal/child services, community mental health/addictions and equity, diversity and inclusion

NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY, Thursday, May 26, 2022—Have you or your loved ones received care from Northumberland Hills Hospital (NHH) in the past three years? Do you have an interest in being a part of hospital decision making in a manner that reflects NHH's core values of integrity, quality, respect, compassion and teamwork? The Patient and Family Advisory Council (PFAC) has a number of volunteer opportunities you may want to consider!

Established at NHH in December 2016, this Council is now in its sixth year. Through the volunteer Council, patient and caregiver partners are active in all core patient care areas of the hospital, working as partners with NHH staff, managers, physicians and the Board of Directors on a wide variety of hospital activities, special projects and program-focused quality and practice committees.

“The PFAC is one of many ways NHH works together with patients and caregivers to continuously enhance the quality of care from the perspective of those who receive care,” said Jennifer Gillard, Senior Director, Patient Experience, Public Affair and Strategic Partnerships. “NHH has benefitted from many generous PFAC volunteers over the years who have shared their lived experience, input and time. These individuals have played a key role enhancing the care experience at NHH in many ways, large and small, and we are committed to continually recruiting new Advisors to sustain and expand this important work.”

The PFAC has three opportunities that require dedicated support in the following areas:

- Maternal/Child Care
- Community Mental Health and Addictions
- Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

About the PFAC’s Maternal/Child opportunity

Buddied with the unit manager, the successful candidate for the Maternal/Child Care opportunity will bring their lived experience to NHH’s Maternal/Child Quality and Practice Committee. Acting in an advisory capacity to the Maternal/Child Program Director and Medical Director, the Maternal/Child Quality and Practice Committee actively oversees and provides advice and guidance regarding the planning, organization, care delivery and evaluation of NHH’s busy Maternal/Child program.

About the PFAC's Community Mental Health and Addictions opportunity

Buddied with the Integrated Director, Mental Health, Community Program and Services, the successful candidate for the Maternal/Child Care opportunity will bring their lived experience to the Quality and Practice Committee of NHH's Community Mental Health and Addiction program and other ad hoc projects. Equally well suited to a client or the loved one of a client of NHH's community mental health programs, the opportunity will provide a chance to work alongside practitioners to continuously improve quality and enhance local programming.

About the PFAC's Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion opportunity

As a member of NHH's interdisciplinary Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Advisory Committee (EDIAC), and buddied with NHH's VP, People, Culture and Organizational Effectiveness, the successful candidate will bring their passion for matters of diversity, general awareness, formal learnings or lived experience to the hospital with the aim of contributing to NHH's Equity, Diversity and Inclusion agenda. They will also support strategies and initiatives that are designed to improve awareness of equity and diversity, and promote inclusion for staff, physicians, midwives and volunteers. In addition, the successful candidate will contribute to the delivery of patient-centred care in a manner targeted to remove barriers and create better opportunities for all patients, particularly those from equity seeking or equity deserving groups.

How to express interest?

Residents of west Northumberland with an interest in volunteering on NHH's PFAC are invited to review the Terms of Reference and Role Description and complete the Expression of Interest Form available on the Patient and Family Advisory Council page under the Patients tab of the hospital website at nhh.ca

Time commitment

The full Council meets as a group for quarterly meetings, lasting two hours each, four times per year. In addition to attending quarterly Advisory Council meetings, Patient and Family Advisors also participate—as their experience/interest directs—on the specific committee and/or project to which they are assigned, requiring additional background reading and meetings ranging between 6-9 times a year. Meeting times vary according to area of service. Most are held in the day time or early evening, and are currently occurring in a mix of in-person and virtual settings. It's expected that in-person meetings will resume with more regularity in the near future.

Completed Expressions of Interest are required for consideration in the specific opportunities listed above. Interest is invited at any time, for any program area, though the PFAC aims to fill the above priority opportunities by late June, 2022.

About Northumberland Hills Hospital – Located approximately 100 kilometres east of Toronto, NHH delivers a broad range of acute, post-acute, outpatient and diagnostic services. Acute services include emergency and intensive care, medical/surgical care, obstetrical care and palliative care. Post-acute specialty services (PASS) include restorative care and rehabilitation. Mental health care, chemotherapy, dialysis and 16 other ambulatory care clinics are offered on an outpatient basis through partnerships

with regional centres and nearby specialists. NHH offers a full range of diagnostic services, including magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), computed tomography (CT) and mammography. The hospital serves the catchment area of west Northumberland County. A mixed urban and rural population of approximately 60,000 residents, west Northumberland comprises the Town of Cobourg, the Municipality of Port Hope, Alderville First Nation and the townships of Hamilton, Cramahe and Alnwick/Haldimand. NHH employs more than 700 people and relies on the additional support provided by physicians, midwives and volunteers. NHH is an active member of Ontario Health (East)—formerly the Central East Local Health Integration Network—and the Ontario Health Team of Northumberland. For more information, please visit nhh.ca or follow us on Facebook [@northumberlandhillshosp](https://www.facebook.com/northumberlandhillshosp) or Twitter [@NorHillsHosp](https://twitter.com/NorHillsHosp).

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