



NEWS RELEASE

Patient and Family Advisory Council established at NHH

NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY, Tuesday, January 10th, 2017 – Northumberland Hills Hospital's first Patient and Family Advisory Council has been formed following a public call for interest. The initial meeting of the inaugural Council was held December 15th, 2016, in the Board Room at Northumberland Hills Hospital (NHH).

Composed of seven patients or caregivers of patients who have received care at NHH and two hospital staff members, the Council includes volunteers who have had experience with a broad range of NHH's services, including in-patient rehabilitation, emergency care, medicine, mental health, maternal/child care, chemotherapy, palliative care and surgical services.

In addition to a preliminary orientation to NHH, one of the main topics of discussion at the Council's December meeting was the group's Terms of Reference, the document that will, on completion, set out the Council members' expectations of NHH and, conversely, NHH's expectations of the new volunteers. The December meeting also provided the Patient and Family Advisory Council members with an opportunity to talk with program directors and managers from the various Quality and Practice Committees they will be participating in, as well as hospital leaders such as President and CEO Linda Davis and Vice President of Patient Services and Chief Nursing Executive Helen Brenner.

"NHH is committed to actively engaging the community it serves for the purpose of sharing information and exchanging ideas to develop or improve policies, programs, practices and, ultimately, experience," said NHH President and CEO Linda Davis. "Engagement at NHH takes many forms to help us reach as many of the individuals we serve as possible," Davis continued. "The creation of this Council provides one more opportunity for NHH to achieve its goal of continuously making improvements to the planning, delivery and evaluation of care, and we thank all those who expressed interest in participating."

Given the high level of interest, and following one-on-one interviews last fall, the determination was made to begin with a seven-member Council. Members have been asked to commit to a minimum of one year of service and a maximum of three.

"The individual Council members' interest and their willingness to share it respectfully is the most important skill they bring to the Patient and Family Advisory Council table," said Davis. "We are very grateful for their commitment to NHH and the broader community

we serve, and we look forward to working together in the years ahead, learning together and building, adapting and adjusting as we go.”

The new Council will be meeting quarterly as a group to provide input on a range of activities, from corporate-level discussions, such as strategic planning, to program- and issue-specific work. In addition, the volunteers have also committed to participating in monthly Quality and Practice Committee meetings to provide input on particular hospital programs.

Below is a listing of the Council members and the Quality and Practice Committees they will be joining. For further background on the Council please see the call for interest news release and related Frequently Asked Questions document in the [Latest News section](#) on www.nhh.ca.

Additional information on the Council will be incorporated into the hospital’s website as their work progresses over the next year.

Patient and Family Advisory Council members

- Bill Bachellier, Grafton - Mental Health Quality and Practice Committee
- Jayne Crompton, Cobourg – Emergency Department Quality and Practice Committee
- Elizabeth Dickson, Grafton – Maternal/Child Quality and Practice Committee
- David Harnden – Grafton – Post Acute Specialty Services Quality and Practice Committee
- Mary McLeod, Port Hope – Medicine Quality and Practice Committee
- William Prawecki, Cobourg – Cancer and Support Care Quality and Practice Committee
- Barry Vail, Alnwick/Haldimand Township – Surgical Services Quality and Practice Committee
- *Jennifer Gillard, Director, Communications and Community Engagement (Co-Facilitator, NHH)*
- *Myonne Allan, Director, Quality and Safety (Co-Facilitator, NHH)*

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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 and the townships of Hamilton, Cramahe and Alnwick/Haldimand. NHH employs approximately 600 people and relies on the additional support provided by physicians and volunteers. NHH is an active member of the Central East Local Health Integration Network. For more information, please visit www.nhh.ca or follow us on Twitter [@NorHillsHosp](#).

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