



Réseau des services
de santé en français
de l'Est de l'Ontario

Citizens' Advisory Committee South East Region

Mandate

Background

As part of the Réseau-South East LHIN Annual Joint Action Plan, a citizens' committee was formed in the fall of 2012 as a means to increase Francophone participation in health services planning.

The Francophone citizens' committee aligns with:

- The Réseau's mission to engage with the Francophone community in order to improve the offer and the quality of French-language health services in the region and our responsibility to advise the LHIN in matters affecting Francophone health. (Reference: Ontario Regulation 515/09 on engagement with the Francophone community)
- The South East LHIN's key priority of focusing on the specific health care needs of Aboriginal and Francophone populations (IHSP 2013-2016).

It also fits into the broader context of the *Local Health System Integration Act, 2006* which states in its preamble that the people of Ontario and their government "believe that the health system should be guided by a commitment to equity and respect for diversity in communities in serving the people of Ontario and respect the requirements of the *French Language Services Act* in serving Ontario's French-speaking community."

Purpose

The South East Citizens' Advisory Committee provides perspective on the health needs and priorities of the region's Francophones.

To accomplish this goal, the committee focuses on Francophone client experience and examines the local conditions for French-speaking healthcare system users.

Dialogue with the committee will help guide the Réseau's French-language health services planning and development, in accordance with local healthcare system priorities.

Objectives

The committee:

- Helps to identify Francophone health issues, as well as opportunities to improve French-language health services in the region.
- Offers its perspective on health priorities and on the implementation of local healthcare system initiatives that affect French-language health services.
- Serves as a discussion forum for concerns, ideas and solutions regarding access to and quality of French-language health services in the region.
- Contributes to the dialogue on the real-life experiences of the Francophone minority with French-language health services in the region – use, offer, demand.
- Encourages further reflection on the best ways to inform and involve the region’s Francophones.

Information and discussion topics

Planning: Local and regional health service initiatives; healthcare system organization

Development: Updates on the designation of health service providers; new initiatives on access to services

Involvement: French-language health services networking and information projects; community involvement and consultation opportunities

Values

- Inclusion
- Respect
- Concern for vulnerable or underprivileged Francophone individuals and other clients with limited access to services

Composition

The committee is made up of 10 to 12 individuals who live in the South East region (individual Réseau members and other interested people).

These individuals are passionate about French-language health services and represent the interests of their community to the best of their knowledge and abilities.

As an inclusive body, the committee is open to members of the community, organization representatives, as well as healthcare professionals and administrators.

Ideally, the committee should include at least one person from each county:

- County of Frontenac
- Hastings County
- County of Lennox and Addington
- United Counties of Leeds Grenville and Lanark County
- Prince Edward County

The committee also includes:

- The South East LHIN French Language Services Coordinator
- The South East representative to the Réseau Board of Directors
- The Réseau Planning Officer for the South East Region

- The Réseau Director of Communications and Community Participation (ad hoc)

Members may form one or more ad hoc sub-committees as required to review particular issues.

The committee's discussions and counsel are reported regularly to the Réseau Board of Directors through the Executive Director, the South East representative to the Board, and the Réseau Planning Officer.

Results of formal consultations with the committee will be provided in writing to the South East LHIN by the Réseau as required.

Procedures

Committee discussions will be conducted in French. Members may occasionally be required to review English-language materials, or to welcome English-speaking guests.

Meetings will be coordinated and chaired by the Réseau Planning Officer. The meeting's agenda is prepared in consultation with the South East LHIN French Language Services Coordinator.

The committee will meet 3 or 4 times per year, or more often if required.

The Réseau will be responsible for all meeting logistical expenses. The Réseau will reimburse members for any travel costs.

The mandate of the South East Citizens' Advisory Committee will be reviewed following the first full year of activity in 2013-2014. Following this revision, the committee will review its mandate biannually.

Meeting schedule

Meetings will take place on the last Wednesday in September, November, January and March, and notices will be sent to members by e-mail.

Updated: October 2014