

SYDENHAM DISTRICT HOSPITAL BOARD

The Chair's Message to Members

Thanks to everyone who attended our members' meeting on the 23rd of March. From the information that was shared at that meeting and because of some speculation around healthcare services at SDH including the emergency department, your SDH Board felt that it is our responsibility to post an update on the latest developments.

We will provide a fuller report to you at our planned meeting to be held at the UAW Hall in Wallaceburg on April 19th beginning at 5pm.

While April 19th is an SDH Corporate Members' meeting, all of the public are welcome and are encouraged to attend, so please pass the word and help to ensure a good turnout.

On the issue of Healthcare Services at SDH and particularly regarding the Emergency Department that we all rely on so much, the SDH Board, as a part of CKHA, received a report on a proposal to change the manner in which healthcare services would be delivered to the North Kent, Sydenham, Walpole, St. Clair and South Lambton Regions. These proposed changes, presented in camera at an Alliance Board Meeting, do not meet our minimum expectations. We expect to be able to share the detail of this report with you on the 19th of April.

As an interim measure, the SDH Board has developed a number of principles that would guide our consideration of any proposed changes. We would like to share these principles with you.

SDH Directors are in unanimous agreement:

- we need a new facility to replace the current building
- we need a 24/7 emergency department with ancillary services such as lab and diagnostics
- we could and should co-locate with other healthcare providers
- we could and should offer a one-stop-shop for as many of our communities healthcare needs as possible - one door leading to many services - integrated to be as efficient as possible
- we need a heliport facility

We have met a number of times, separately and jointly with the PGH and St Josephs boards within the Alliance. We have consistently promoted the above principles. We attended a number of key meetings over the last two months dealing with the building condition at SDH and the budget deficit issues that we face across CKHA, but we have yet to achieve any sort of agreement with the Boards for PGH or St Josephs Hospitals on how to move forward with either issue.

We will continue to represent you and our communities and work with our healthcare partners, the LHIN and with the Ministry of Health to ensure that a proposal is developed that will meet with our principles and your expectations.

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