



Community Paramedicine Forum Connects Paramedic Services Across Ontario

On March 28 and 29, 2019, more than 150 attended the first Community Paramedicine Forum hosted by the Ontario Community Paramedicine Secretariat at the Chelsea Hotel in Toronto. The forum brought together a network of individuals from all areas of the health care spectrum, including representatives from 37 paramedic services, 7 LHINs, paramedic chiefs, and Ministry and LHIN leadership.

Day one of the forum highlighted the theme of partnerships within the health care. Dr. Rueben Devlin from the Premier's council on Improving and Ending Hallway medicine provided a keynote address on an integrated healthcare system and how Community Paramedicine programs fit into this vision for the future.

The day continued with remarks from important members of the Community Paramedicine Secretariat community including the co-chairs of the steering committee Dr. Samir Sinha, Director of Geriatrics, Sinai Health System and University Health Network, and Michael Nolan, Chief of the Country of Renfrew Paramedic Service. Sharon Lee Smith, CEO, Mississauga Halton LHIN provided remarks on behalf of the LHIN CEOs and Neal Roberts, President of the Ontario Association of Paramedic Chiefs provided remarks on behalf of the paramedic chiefs. Finally, Matthew Leyenaar, Director of the Community Paramedicine Secretariat provided remarks and background on the Community Paramedicine Secretariat initiative.

The afternoon commenced with a panel discussion on revisiting the three models of care in paramedicine with panelists from regions all across Ontario to give their insight on how we can adapt and work with the existing models. The panel discussion led straight into opening up dialogue for the regional breakout group sessions on partnerships and how we can work together to foster integration in the health care system. The last presentation of the day was delivered by Brent McLeod of the HNHB LHIN and Craig Hennessey of SW LHIN who shared progress on the how the future of Community Paramedicine should be shaped.

Day one was wrapped up with a Community Paramedicine Leadership award ceremony that showcased CP programs that highlighted the success of CP programs across Ontario. A record 19 applications were submitted for the award! The winner of the Health System



Partner Leadership Award was the County of Simcoe Paramedic Services and the Couchiching Family Health Team. Entries from paramedic services were also grouped by LHIN to determine the winner for the Leadership Award by an Ontario LHIN. Waterloo-Wellington LHIN won this award thanks to the strong contribution to health system integration by the Guelph-Wellington Paramedic Service and the Region of Waterloo Paramedic Services. The award ceremony was followed by an evening reception to close out day one.

Day two of the forum focused on reporting back and measurement and evaluation protocols for CP programs across Ontario. The day two keynote address was delivered by Nancy Kotani, Chief of Transformation and Strategy at the British Columbia Emergency Health Services on how Community Paramedicine has developed and progressed in the British Columbia health service system.

The keynote address was followed by a presentation from Saul Melamed from the Canadian Institute of Health Information that provided context on how data can be used to improve the patient care and the relevance collecting accurate information has on the paramedicine programs to improve care.

The presentation was followed by breakout sessions on reporting and performance evaluation.

Day two was closed out with a presentation from Gary Wingrove, the president of The Paramedic Foundation based out of the United States who shared Community Paramedicine success stories in an international context.

We would like to thank everyone who attended our Forum and we look to move forward plan the next Forum that will be taking place in Fall 2019. Stay up to date with the Secretariat's work by following it on [Twitter @OCPSecretariat](#) !