Inaugural council members named for Central Regional Hospice Palliative Care Program

The Central Community Care Access Centre (CCAC) has embarked on its new role as the operational lead for the Central Local Health Integration Network (LHIN) Regional Hospice Palliative Care Program, which will bring together all palliative care providers in the Central region with the goal of providing standardized, best practice care and integrated services to patients.

The CCAC’s role is to support the Program Council that has recently been formed.

“Palliative care and supports can make a huge difference in the lives of people facing chronic, progressive life-limiting conditions,” says Dr. Nancy Merrow, interim chair of the council and Palliative Lead for Cancer Care Ontario in Central LHIN. “The council looks forward to collaborating with patients, families, providers and other health system partners to build capacity and strengthen the palliative service delivery model in our region, so more people in our communities can access the palliative care they need.”

Council members

- **Rhona Abraham**
  Caregiver

- **Yvonne Ashford**
  Vice President, Client Services, Central CCAC

- **Dr. Louis Balogh**
  Regional Vice President, Cancer Care Ontario for the Integrated Cancer Plan and Regional Cancer Program in the Central LHIN

- **Joyce Bailey**
  Former Vice President, Corporate Services, Ontario Hospital Association
  Former Board Chair, St. John’s Rehab

- **Donald Cousens**
  Principal, Counsel Public Affairs,
  Former Mayor, Markham, Former MPP York Centre and Markham

- **Carol Hotchkiss**
  Director, Long-Term Care and Seniors, The Regional Municipality of York

- **Lisa Levin**
  Vice President, Communications and Development, Circle Of Care

- **Dr. Nancy Merrow** (interim chair)
  Chief of Staff, Southlake Regional Health Centre

- **Lynne Penton**
  Acute Care Nurse Practitioner, Oncology/Palliative Care, Humber River Hospital

- **Dr. Adam Rapoport**
  Medical Director, Palliative Care and Bereavement Service, The Hospital for Sick Children

- **Frank Taylor**
  Secretary, Matthews House Hospice Board of Directors

- **Dr. Natasha Zajc**
  Palliative Care Physician, Southlake Regional Health Centre, Family Physician, Chair – PalCare

Central CCAC and LHIN representatives

- **Carol Edward**
  Senior Planner, Central LHIN

- **Lynn Harrett**
  Vice President, Strategic Integration and Community Relations, Central CCAC

- **Patricia Mosnia**
  Director, Regional Hospice Palliative Care Program, Central CCAC

About the Council

The Central Regional Hospice Palliative Care Program Council is comprised of caregivers and family members, health sector leaders representing the spectrum of palliative services and other respected community representatives.

Members were selected through an Expression of Interest process, with a view to balancing expertise in areas such as inter-organizational partnerships, evidence-based models, change management, governance and hospice palliative care issues.

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**Did you know?**

**Half of terminal cancer patients die in hospital, report says:**

“What our study found was a bit of a mismatch between where patients said they wanted to die, which was at home, and where they did spend their last days,” said Kathleen Morris, the group's director of health system analysis and emerging issues in Toronto. “Many of the lessons learned from this study extend to anyone at end of life. People are looking for a well co-ordinated system, to have consistent caregivers, to have their pain managed and to be provided with the support they need.”

(Source: CBC News)

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**Commitment to action**

Following a provincial review of Ontario’s palliative care system, the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care directed LHINs to plan and implement comprehensive integrated hospice palliative care services in their regions within a common framework set out in [Advancing High Quality, High Value Palliative Care in Ontario – Declaration of Partnership and Commitment to Action](#).

With the patient at the centre of the work, and families providing input and guidance, the regional program aims to:

- **Enhance** navigation and care coordination to increase access to palliative care
- **Develop** tools that ensure best use of resources
- **Improve** access to bereavement services and after-hours support
- **Strengthen** caregiver supports
- **Build** service capacity
- **Support** provincial educational activities
- **Strengthen** residential hospice services and palliative care delivery in long-term care homes
- **Improve** integration and continuity across care settings
- **Strengthen** cross-sector accountability and
- **Build** public awareness

According to Mosnia, Central region’s program will build on the work previously completed by the Interim Advisory Group and Transition Strategy Team of the Central LHIN Hospice Palliative Care Network, established in June 2011. “We appreciate the contributions of the members involved in this important work that the Council will now continue,” says Mosnia. “Thanks to their efforts we are positioned to make a difference.”

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**Meet the new Director**

**Patricia Mosnia** has joined the Central CCAC as Director, Regional Hospice Palliative Care Program. Most recently Director of Clinical Services at MediSystem Pharmacy, Patricia was responsible for the clinical pharmacy services, quality improvement and education programs provided to nursing and retirement homes across Canada. She has over twenty years’ experience as a clinical pharmacist in several Toronto hospitals, and has worked in the long-term care sector.

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**First in a series of information bulletins on our progress towards better palliative care for people in the Central region.**

**For more information about the Central Regional Hospice Palliative Care Program, please contact Patricia Mosnia, Director at 905 763 9928 x7132 or patricia.mosnia@central.ccac-ont.ca.**

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**Central Regional Hospice Palliative Care Program**

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**Ontario Central Local Health Integration Network**