

CKOHT Monthly Newsletter

MAY 2025



Welcome to the Chatham-Kent Ontario Health Team Monthly Newsletter! Stay informed with the latest updates, success stories and innovative initiatives from our dedicated partners. Each month, we bring you inspiring stories of collaboration, highlight important health events and showcase new programs designed to enhance health and well-being across our community. Together, we're building a healthier and stronger Chatham-Kent!

**Connect
With
Us**

CKOHT Submits Proposal for Expanded Team-Based Primary Care

CHATHAM-KENT ONTARIO HEALTH TEAM

On April 10, the Ontario government launched a targeted call for proposals to expand up to 80 new primary care teams across the province, aiming to connect 300,000 more people to care in 2025/26. This is part of a \$1.8 billion, four-year plan to reach 2 million Ontarians. CKOHT submitted a coordinated application by the May 2 deadline.

Eligible applicants included clinicians and primary care teams working with Ontario Health Teams in specified postal code areas where there are high rates of individuals without a family physician or primary care nurse practitioner. In Chatham-Kent, we were eligible to put forth a proposal for the rural postal code areas starting with N0P (excluding Chatham proper and Wallaceburg). Currently, 17.4% of residents in N0P areas—over 10,500 people—lack access to a family physician or primary care nurse practitioner.

Despite all CK family physicians and primary care nurse practitioners being a part of team-based care models, shortages have created high unattachment rates. Challenges include physician vacancies, retirements, and recruitment difficulties.

CKOHT's submitted proposal to the Ontario Government aimed to:

- Prioritize primary care access in rural CK starting summer 2025
- Reduce provider workload by sharing administrative and clinical tasks
- Expand care teams with new clinical, allied health, and administrative roles
- Introduce digital tools like AI scribes and online booking
- Attract and retain new family physicians and nurse practitioners

This initiative supports equitable, timely, and team-based care for residents across Chatham-Kent. Round 2 of applications will be available September 2025.



Chatham-Kent Ontario Health Team Hosts Community Drug Strategy Forum

CHATHAM-KENT ONTARIO HEALTH TEAM

On May 27, 2025, the Chatham-Kent Ontario Health Team (CKOHT) brought together over 150 people at the W.I.S.H. Centre for a collaborative Community Drug Strategy Forum. The event united policy leaders, frontline staff, management teams, and individuals with lived and living expertise from across the region to prioritize key actions for implementing the CK Community Drug Strategy.

The forum created space for meaningful discussion, shared learning, and forward planning. Participants worked together to establish priority actions aimed at preventing and addressing substance use related harms in Chatham-Kent. Through collaborative dialogue and group work, community partners aligned on creating a shared path forward that supports the strategy's vision: "A caring, inclusive, and safe community that works together to reduce the harms, stigma, and systemic barriers associated with substance use."

The CK Community Drug Strategy is guided by four key pillars:

- Prevention
- Treatment and Recovery
- Community Inclusion and Safety
- Harm Reduction

In March 2024, Chatham-Kent Municipal Council approved the implementation of the strategy, which is being led by the Chatham-Kent Ontario Health Team in partnership with organizations from across the not-for-profit, private, and public sectors, as well as people with lived and living expertise of substance use.

To learn more about the CK Community Drug Strategy and get involved in the conversation, please visit: www.letstalkchatham-kent.ca/ckmunicipaldrugstrategy.



MAY 2025

Research and Policy Fellow – Primary Care Network Chatham-Kent Ontario Health Team

CHATHAM-KENT ONTARIO HEALTH TEAM

We are hiring for a Research and Policy Fellow!

The Chatham-Kent Ontario Health Team is a collaborative group of 26 local health care providers working together to improve health care for patients, families and caregivers. The goal of the CKOHT is to bring together health care partners from all sectors, including hospital, home and community care, primary care, long-term care and community support agencies to provide seamless, fully coordinated care for patients, while creating a more efficient system.

The CKOHT's vision is: "Achieving the best health and well-being together."

THE POSITION

The focus of this role is to assist the CKOHT in the development of a Primary Care Network (PCN). The vision for PCN's in Ontario is to connect, integrate, and support primary care providers within OHTs to improve the delivery and coordination of care for patients. In Chatham-Kent, there are four team based primary care sites, that connect all practicing family physicians to team-based care models. There is a strong primary care foundation to the work of Chatham-Kent Ontario Health Team, through the connections and partnerships that have been fostered through the Ontario Health Team.

Over the coming months, Chatham-Kent Ontario Health Team is looking to leverage evidenced based best practices to shift to a more formal Primary Care Network. Including the creation of governance documents, terms of references, membership policies, and priority setting.

The position is posted as Temporary Full-Time (Until March 31, 2026) but can also be Temporary Part-Time (flexible hours with at least 22.5 hours per week). Contract extension is a possibility. The position is a fully remote position.

[Click Here for the full job posting.](#)

Partnering for Better Care: Patient Voices Leading the Way at CKOHT

CHATHAM-KENT ONTARIO HEALTH TEAM

Since 2020, the Chatham-Kent Ontario Health Team (CKOHT) has prioritized patient partnership as a cornerstone of a local, patient-centred health system. At the heart of this effort is the Patient and Family Advisory Council (PFAC), which has been actively involved in the design, implementation, and evaluation of local health initiatives for over five years.

Using the International Association for Public Participation's Spectrum of Engagement, CKOHT ensures that patient advisors are meaningfully engaged—whether through informing, consulting, involving, collaborating, or empowering them. The PFAC's motto, "Nothing About Us, Without Us," guides this work.

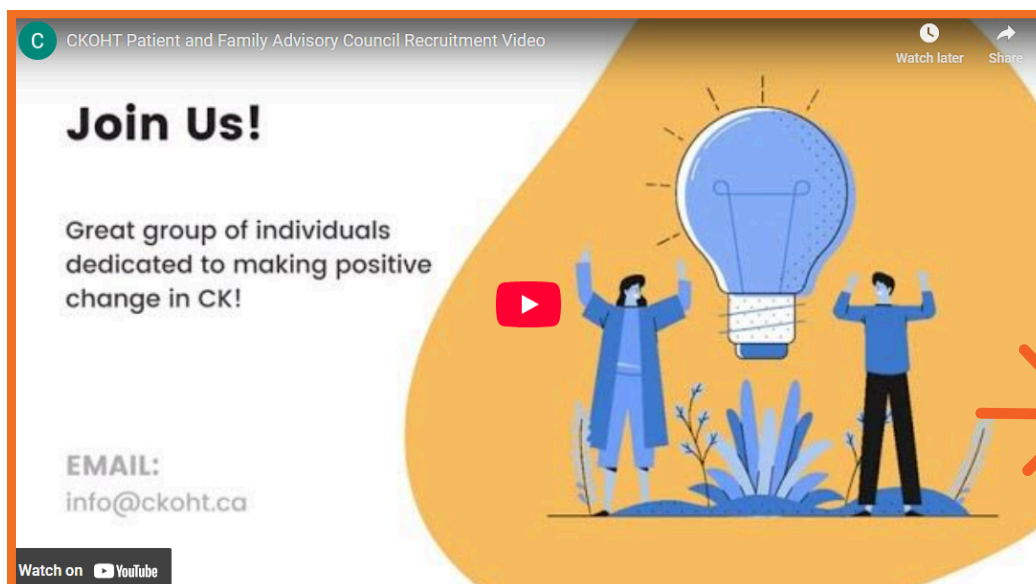
CKOHT's Steering Committee, Working Groups and Action Teams include PFAC members or individuals with lived experience, ensuring person-centred care is central to all health care planning, design and decisions.

This year, PFAC also led the completion of the Self-Assessment for Engagement Capable Environments, a comprehensive evaluation of our engagement efforts. The PFAC's leadership helped identify key areas to improve and sustain our progress in community co-design.

Together, we continue to build a stronger, more inclusive healthcare system—powered by patient partnership.

To learn more about the CKOHT's PFAC: [Patient and Family Advisory Council - Chatham-Kent Ontario Health Team](#)

If you are interested to learn more about becoming a member, please email: info@ckoht.ca



Tilbury Senior Fair

CHATHAM-KENT ONTARIO HEALTH TEAM

The Tilbury Senior Fair was held May 8, 2025 at the Tilbury Arena hosted in partnership with Family Service Kent and The Municipality of Chatham-Kent.

Hundreds of seniors attended the event to learn about health, social and community services throughout Chatham-Kent. There were many organizational booths including the Chatham-Kent Ontario Health Team who spent time talking with participants and promoting some of the clinical services such as: BridgeCare, Pathway21Care, and the rotating Pap clinics across CK.

Participants were also interested to learn about ConnectMyHealth an online patient portal, and the work CKOHT is doing on the CK Community Drug Strategy. Lots of discussions with residents were had about the need for additional access and attachment for primary care, including recruiting more primary care nurse practitioners and new family physicians to practice in CK.

Pictured at the event are CKOHT Staff: Rebecca Smyth, Physician Recruitment and Community Engagement Coordinator along with Tiffany Gartner-Duff, Integrated Care and Partnership Lead.



One bus, seven regions, one shared vision

ENTITE

One bus, seven regions, one shared vision: Discover the outcomes of the Regional Awareness Tour!

In 2024, Entities 1 and 2 traveled across Southwestern Ontario aboard a bus adorned with Franco-Ontarian colors to meet with communities and service providers. The goal: to advance the active offer, use, and demand for French-language health services.

Over 320 voices heard across 23 meetings in 7 regions: Sarnia-Lambton, London, Cambridge, Windsor-Essex, Niagara, Chatham-Kent, and Hamilton.

A report grounded in local realities

The report highlights:

- Inspiring local strengths;
- Shared challenges: lack of resources, limited awareness of rights, fragmented efforts;
- Possible solutions: health hubs, local campaigns, regional partnerships.

A mobilizing Regional Plenary



On October 29, 2024, the London Plenary brought together 164 participants to:

- Identify experienced barriers;
- Propose concrete actions;
- Build a shared vision for a more equitable health care system.

A tool for collective action

This report is a starting point — a lever for action for communities, providers, managers, decision-makers, and partners.

Access the report here:

-  [French version](#)
-  [English version](#)

Un autobus, sept régions, une vision commune : Découvrez les retombées de la Tournée régionale de sensibilisation!

En 2024, les Entités 1 et 2 ont sillonné l'Ouest de l'Ontario à bord d'un autobus aux couleurs franco-ontariennes pour rencontrer les communautés et les fournisseurs de services. Objectif : faire avancer l'offre, l'utilisation et la demande actives des services de santé en français.

Plus de 320 voix entendues dans 23 rencontres, à travers 7 régions : Sarnia-Lambton, London, Cambridge, Windsor-Essex, Niagara, Chatham-Kent et Hamilton.

Un rapport ancré sur le terrain

Le rapport met en lumière :

- Des forces locales inspirantes ;
- Des défis communs : manque de ressources, droits mal connus, efforts fragmentés ;
- Des pistes de solutions : carrefours santé, campagnes locales, partenariats régionaux.

Une Plénière régionale mobilisatrice



Le 29 octobre 2024, la Plénière de London a rassemblé 164 participants pour :

- Identifier les barrières vécues ;
- Proposer des actions concrètes ;
- Bâtir une vision partagée d'un système de santé plus équitable.

Un outil pour agir ensemble

Ce rapport est un point de départ, un levier d'action pour les communautés, fournisseurs, gestionnaires, décideurs et partenaires.

Accédez au rapport ici :

-  [Version française](#)
-  [English version](#)

Annual Charity Golf Tournament

WESTOVER TREATMENT CENTRE

WESTOVERTREATMENTCENTRE.CA



Get your Golf on at our 34th Annual Charity Golf Tournament. Become a sponsor and build a team to play the grounds of the beautiful LINKS OF KENT in Chatham at 120 Indian Creek Rd W.

Mon. Sep. 8th
Links of Kent



Enjoy a day of golf, fellowship, and some tasty food. Westover relies on this fundraiser to provide the necessary funds to offer our programs at the highest of quality. Not only to those struggling with addiction including their friends and family. The world today is seeing inflation on the rise and Westover is being challenged to provide the type of care we have in the past as costs continue to rise to on a daily basis. Here is how can help those in need of our services and while having some fun.

EASILY BECOME A SPONSOR AND/OR REGISTER ON-LINE

<input type="radio"/> DIAMOND	\$10,000
<input type="radio"/> PLATINUM	\$5,000
<input type="radio"/> GOLD	\$2,250
<input type="radio"/> SILVER	\$1,250
<input type="radio"/> BRONZE	\$750
<input type="radio"/> HOLE SPONSOR	\$300
<input type="radio"/> PLAYER \$200	\$200

Hurry, special offer ends June 30th

EARLY BIRD GOLD \$2,250*

*Add an additional player for free, for more details visit westovertreatmentcentre.ca/events

AGENDA

REGISTRATION

9 TO 9:45 AM
REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE

SHOT GUN START

10 AM
PLAYERS MEET AT GOLF CARTS

LUNCH

AFTER THE TURN
CHOICE OF HOT DOG OR HAMBURGER

DINNER

UPON COMPLETION OF GOLF
BBQ STEAK MEAL WITH ALL THE FIXINGS

AWARDS & DOOR PRIZES

AFTER DINNER

Thank you!

SCAN ME
TODAY...
TO PLAY!



MAY 2025

Find your Village

COMMUNITY LIVING WALLACEBURG



FIND YOUR VILLAGE

Families Helping Families Navigate Autism

JUNE 12, 2025 AT 7:00 PM

With Keynote Speakers

NICOLE DREW

✓ *Speech and Language Pathologist*
Focusing on Neuro Affirming Care



&



ASHLYN DOLBEAR

✓ *Naturopathic Medical Graduate*
✓ *Late Diagnosed Autistic Woman*

Free Event
Refreshments Provided

Please RSVP at: 519-359-2326 or
ccfd@getintocommunityliving.com

939 Dufferin Ave, Wallaceburg, On

Also note that planning has begun for CLW's Summer Picnic for Friday, July 24 at Michell's Bay! Stay tuned for more information!

CKOHT Signatory Members



CKOHT Virtual Lunch & Learn Fridays

Each month, CKOHT hosts a 1 hour Lunch & Learn which typically include 1-2 spotlight presentations of a particular local project or initiative. These are informal meetings where the health, social and community sectors gather to learn and share together. There is ample time left after the presentation for participants to ask questions and join a dialogue.

TOPIC: CKOHT PLAN FOR INDIGENOUS EDUCATION



JUNE 20, 2025
12:00PM - 1:00PM



LUNCH & LEARN



QUESTIONS? CONTACT MELISSA SHARPE-HARRIGAN,
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