

Conference highlights changing health care strategies – with focus on specialized care

September 12, 2008 - Wait times and improved care for the aging population are two of the topics that will be discussed at a conference for health and community service workers in Kingston Monday, September 15th. *Building Capacity Through Innovation and Integration of Specialized Care* will focus on opportunities to integrate and expand access to specialized care in southeastern Ontario.

The one-day conference is hosted by Providence Care, the region's provider of non-acute care including mental health care, specialized geriatric care, palliative care, complex continuing care, long-term care and rehabilitation.

"This conference brings together agencies, programs and services that provide health care and related services to the people of southeastern Ontario," says Dale Kenney, Providence Care President & CEO. "We want to share information and perspectives about the challenges and opportunities we each face in order to improve access, shorten wait times and generally make care easier for our patients and clients."

Kenney says although Providence Care already has strong partnerships with a number of local and regional health care agencies, there are always new ways to work together.

"Events that bring key people together from across the health care system to talk about ways of improving access to quality services are vital to helping build a more sustainable health care system. For every challenge that exists, there is an opportunity for proactive, integrated and responsive solutions," notes Paul Huras, chief executive officer of the South East Local Health Integration Network.

The conference is scheduled to take place at the Days Inn & Conference Centre and organizers expect upwards of 100 attendees representing the full spectrum of service providers. Keynote speaker Dr. Peter Prendergast will speak to the role of specialized care in the health continuum.

Providence Care is the leading provider of specialized care for some of the most vulnerable patients in southeastern Ontario – for example, the frail elderly, people coping with chronic illness, stroke survivors and those living with serious mental illness. One of Kingston's university hospitals, Providence Care has three main sites in Kingston: Mental Health Services, St. Mary's of the Lake Hospital and Providence Manor, as well as 18 community locations. Affiliated with Queen's University, Providence Care is a major centre for teaching and research.

For more information or to attend the Building Capacity Through Innovation and Integration of Specialized Care conference, please contact:

Jenn Goodwin
Providence Care, Communications Officer
Office: 613-548-5567 ext 5668;
Cell: 613-329-0829
Email: goodwinj@providencecare.ca