

February 7, 2018

Update - Health System Transformation

New website for health providers

The Manitoba government, regional health authorities and provincial health organizations are launching a new website for health providers with the most complete information on health-system transformation.

The site will include regional and organizational information, as well as frequently asked questions, an audio file and a transcript of the recent town hall for those unable to attend, regional messages about transformation and other key information.

Visit the site here: <http://www.gov.mb.ca/health/hst/index.html>. We encourage you to add this site to your bookmarks and visit often for the most up-to-date information on health-system transformation.

Summary: town hall on provincial health-care transformation

On Jan. 18, more than 700 provincial health-care staff dialed into the provincial telephone town hall on health-care transformation. The call was hosted by Kelvin Goertzen, Minister of Health, Seniors and Active Living, and included Deputy Minister Karen Herd. Another participant was Dr. David Peachey, whose recommendations on clinical and preventive health-care service planning provided the foundation for Manitoba's move toward a provincial planning process for our health-care transformation. Also on the call was Dr. Brock Wright, chief executive officer of the new provincial health organization, Shared Health, which is capitalizing on the expertise of clinical leaders from across the province to develop a provincial clinical and preventive health services plan.

If you were unable to participate in the call, the following is a summary of the discussion. To hear the audio or read the full transcript of the telephone town hall visit: <http://www.gov.mb.ca/health/hst/index.html>.

Why are we doing this? Why is transformation needed?

Consultation with Manitobans has shown that change is needed. Manitoba's health-care system serves more than 1.3 million Manitobans, but is overly complex. The more than 55,000 health-care employees across the province can no longer continue working in isolation of each other. We need to ensure the same standards and access to services are consistent across the province so patients can receive the best care possible.

Shared Health

Shared Health will support a better-connected and coordinated provincial planning process that will allow clinical service consolidation and consistent standards of care across the province. This is particularly important for people from rural and northern communities who have often had to travel to Winnipeg for clinical services.

There is also the opportunity to plan and work together. Shared Health is being created out of the corporate framework of Diagnostic Services Manitoba (DSM). Services aligned under Shared Health will include emergency services, DSM, Manitoba eHealth and the Health Sciences Centre. Having these services aligned will improve the experience for patients seeking care and increase patient safety. Representatives that provide care in rural and Northern Manitoba are at clinical leadership tables, and are also being asked to take leading roles in transformation.



Health System Transformation

Looking ahead in health-care system planning

Health-care changes need to be supported in a thoughtful, organized and well-managed way that is sensitive to staff. Right now, we're in a "blueprinting" phase for the overall health system. This means we're identifying roles, responsibilities, accountabilities and mandates. The planning will be concluded in the first quarter of 2018. We're looking to hear from you about how we're doing with communicating these changes. And, we'll share where we are along the way, even if we're not in the final end state.

Timelines

Decisions to move forward with changes will be made when it is a clinically sound time to make those changes. That way, everyone will be ready for the changes when they occur. Any further consolidation within Winnipeg or rural Manitoba will be driven by the system being able to support and sustain changes.

The changes in our health-care system will ensure that compassion continues in the system and in your work – because it is this compassion that people remember most about their care experience.

Share your input or questions on health-care transformation

We are working to ensure that staff affected by system changes know *before* these changes happen. We encourage all staff to share feedback and questions in the days to come by contacting the minister directly at: minhsal@leg.gov.mb.ca.

Thank-you,
Karen Herd
Deputy Minister of Manitoba Health, Seniors and Active Living