

North West LHIN – October 13, 2010

The Important Work of Community Support Services

In our October issues of LHINfo Minute, we will be featuring the important work of the Community Support Services sector in the health care system.

From the beginning, seniors at community engagement sessions across the region told the North West LHIN they want to age in their own homes and communities, independently and with dignity. They just need the appropriate supports in place to do so.

A LHIN-funded innovative program introduced in communities east of Thunder Bay in 2008 has proven so successful at supporting seniors to age at home, it has been expanded to communities in the west. **“Programs for Community Living”** provide functional support for community seniors who are frail and most at risk of hospitalization. Daily living activities such as seasonal chores, meals, housekeeping, home repairs and grocery shopping are provided. A flexible basket of services is provided based on the unique needs of each senior.

The program is operating out of three communities and will be starting up in Red Lake this year:

- **Marathon (Wilson Memorial General Hospital)**
In Marathon, this initiative is supported through a strong partnership with the local seniors' association and the local municipality.
Results: In 2009/10, Programs for Community Living provided services to 173 clients in Marathon, above its target of 135 clients. Over 200 clients were provided services in its first year of operation in 2008/09.
- **Schreiber/Terrace Bay (The McCausland Hospital)**
In these communities, this initiative is supported through a strong partnership with the local seniors' organization, Townships of Terrace Bay and Schreiber and the Family Health Team.
Results: In 2009/10, Programs for Community Living provided services to 609 clients in the communities of Terrace Bay and Schreiber, well above its target of 170 clients. Over 250 clients in Terrace Bay were provided services in its first year of operation in 2008/09.
- **Dryden and area (Patricia Region Senior Services Inc)**
A flexible basket of services is provided based on the unique needs of each senior, through collaborative community efforts and resource sharing.
Results: In 2009/10, services were provided to 155 clients in Dryden and in smaller communities in the area.
- **Red Lake (Board of Management for the District of Kenora Home for the Aged)**
The Programs for Community Living are just starting up in Red Lake.
Target: In 2010/11, it is projected that 35-40 new clients could be served in the communities of Red Lake, Balmertown, Cochenour, and Ear Falls.

In 2008/09, other LHIN-funded community support programs provided additional meals for over 150 people in Thunder Bay and over 3,750 rides to medical appointment for seniors throughout the region.