

Submission on LHIN Board Committees Regulation

The Canadian Mental Health Association, Ontario (CMHA, Ontario), the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH), and the Ontario Federation of Community Mental Health and Addictions Programs (the Federation) welcome the opportunity to offer our comments on the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care's proposed regulations related to the LHIN Legislation.

By way of introduction, together our organizations and our respective branches, members and satellite offices provide services and supports across Ontario for thousands of individuals and families living with mental illness and addiction in community and institutional settings. Our three organizations have worked in partnership to support the Transformation Agenda since its early days.

We support the intent of the regulations to involve community members in identifying potential board members for LHINs and to provide advice on audits. We suggest two additions to the proposed regulations.

Duties of Committees

Section 21 of the *Local Health System Integration Act* gives LHINs the power to direct a health service provider to engage or permit an auditor to audit the health service provider's accounts and financial transactions. It is usual practice for a health service provider to conduct its own audit using an external auditor, and for a funder to audit a health service provider under specific circumstances. It is not clear in the legislation or the proposed regulation under what circumstances a special audit of a health service provider would be called for. We would like to see the audit committee recommend to the LHIN the circumstances under which a LHIN would request an audit of a health service provider.

Suggested Amendment:

We recommend adding a clause in Section 3.1 between clauses (e) and (f):

3(1) The Audit Committee of a local health integration network shall review and provide advice and recommendations to the board of directors of the network on,

the circumstances of public interest under which the network should direct a service provider to engage or permit an auditor to audit the service provider's accounts and financial transactions under section 21 of the Act; and

Membership of Committees

An essential aspect of the Local Health System Integration Act is that through the local health integration networks (LHINs) local communities and local people will have the resources and decision-making power to create healthcare delivery solutions that are best suited to their needs. As such, the governance structures of the LHINs must reflect the diverse demographic and geographic characteristics of the local communities they serve, or the intent of the legislation will not be fulfilled. The membership of LHINs boards and committees should include leaders from a broad cross-section of diverse communities within their service areas.

Suggested Amendment

We recommended the addition of a Section 4 dealing with the composition of committees.

Composition of Committees

4. (1) The committees listed in section 1 shall be composed of no more than two board members and no fewer than four community members. A majority of members must be present for decisions.

(2) Board and committee members shall reflect and represent a broad cross-section of the demographic and geographic diversity within their service area. These diverse communities may include: ethno-racial communities; immigrants; Aboriginal peoples; women; gay, lesbian, bisexual and transsexual people; people with disabilities; people who are or have been homeless; people living with mental illness and addictions; people living with chronic illness; and family members.

(3) Boards and committees shall include at least one member with a consumer perspective and one member with a family perspective.

(4) The nominations committee should have at least one member from the mental health and addictions sector.

We appreciate the opportunity to offer these comments on the proposed regulations. If you have any questions with respect to this submission or if you require further information about our response, please contact:

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