



Melissa Minutes

By **Melissa McCallum**
GHHN Director

It's February already! At this point in the pandemic, I know everyone has been working tirelessly and must be exhausted; I want to thank you for all you are doing to keep our communities safe. I am grateful that even with all that has been happening we have been able to accomplish much together.

In the past two months, we have started a new GHHN Primary Care Leadership Group and a new Health Equity Council. These groups are going to be pivotal to our work moving forward and represent how the GHHN is dedicated to creating an equitable health agenda. We have onboarded

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February 22nd
1:00-2:00pm
via Zoom



We need your input!

Our new engagement platform, [EngageGHHN](#) is LIVE! Partners will receive an email to take part in developing the GHHN priority setting project on February 22nd.

Melissa Minutes

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new patient and family advisors into our working groups and will start to engage all of you in more ways online and in-person on how to be involved with GHHN work. We are also gearing up to strategize for the next year so please stay tuned for opportunities related to this work. Lastly, the GHHN is paving the way and we are the first incorporated OHT in the province! None of this would have been possible without the staff team here at GHHN and all of our partner and stakeholder support. Have a good month and as always my door is always open!



Patient, Family & CarePartner Leadership Network

Sarah Precious



The GHHN is excited to announce that we have 16 Patient Advisors forming the new Patient, Family, and CarePartner Leadership Network. This group will begin in mid-February.

We are fortunate to have a number of Patient Advisors continue with us who have been involved with the GHHN for the past 1-2 years, as well as many new individuals joining us through the Expression of Interest open call.

Patient Advisors will be embedded throughout the GHHN on the Executive Council, secretariats, and working groups as well as leading initiatives developed through the Leadership Network.

We look forward to engaging the community, existing Patient Advisory groups and working with our partners and Primary Care Practitioners across Hamilton, Haldimand, and Niagara Northwest to co-design healthcare at the individual, organization, and system levels.

If you have questions or would like to learn more:

- visit our website at <https://greaterhamiltonhealthnetwork.ca/engagement/engagement-strategy/>
- Contact Sarah Precious at sarah.precious@ghhn.ca.

Building community health together



Healthcare Highlights

Rob Kerr

Dr. Kerry Beal and her colleagues at Shelter Health Network have been working nonstop since the onset of the COVID 19 pandemic. When the pandemic was declared, very little was known about how the virus was spread or the consequences; their team stepped up in a major way.

Armed with little personal protective equipment (and, frankly, having to recycle it due to supply issues) and some swabs, they went into the shelters to try and trace those infected and keep them isolated to keep everyone safe. They managed many outbreaks in the shelter system, looking after this marginalized population with dignity and grace...and a whole lot of worry.

They have been there since the beginning of the pandemic, toiling away to help keep the most vulnerable safe. When vaccines came out, they took to the streets with swabs and now syringes and needles, offering vaccines to all. They managed to immunize vast numbers of people; keeping track of those immunized being a difficult challenge as many don't have government issued identification. Through sheer will and the ability to adapt quickly, they managed.



Now Kerry has been reaching out to the boat in port to make sure that they are properly swabbed and immunized.

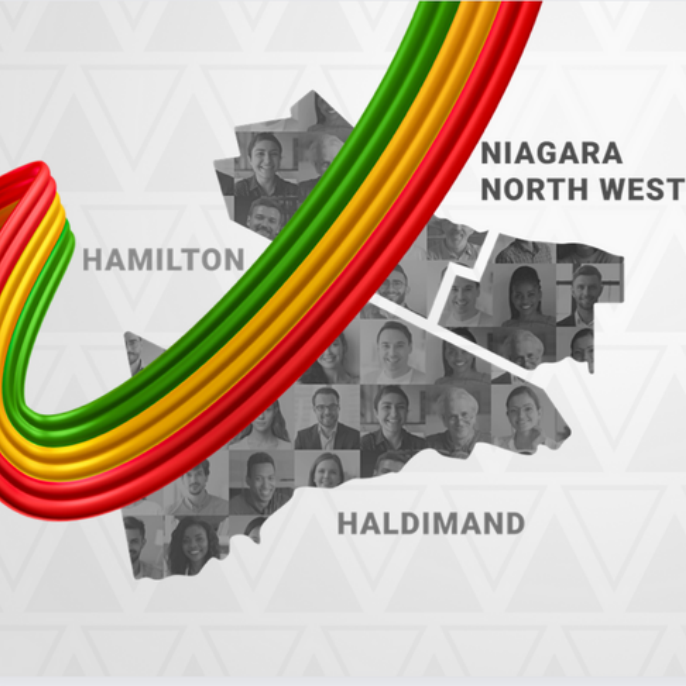
Among us walk many heroes. This pandemic has highlighted just where the gaps are in our system and shown those who are willing to help fill them. Dr. Kerry Beal and her team are those heroes. Thank you for all you have done to keep our citizens alive and safe.

You all deserve medals.



Building community health together





Black History Month

February

February is Black History Month, a time to honour and celebrate the legacy and important achievements of Black Canadians and their communities. This year the theme is Black Health and Wellness, and we invite the GHHN to attend local events to learn, reflect and celebrate.

Follow us on social media to find more information about local events.



David Cooke

Patient Advisor

David has been a Patient Advisor with the GHHN since 2019.

David brings with him warmth, leadership, and personal experience as a patient and resident in a local retirement home.

David is a committed member of the GHHN, supporting work in Congregate Care and as a Patient Advisor on the GHHN Patient, Family and CarePartner Leadership Network. His unwavering commitment to working with others to support and transform healthcare is evident to all who know him.

David, we are grateful for your leadership, insight and knowledge.

Thank you for helping the GHHN grow as an Ontario Health Team and making those around you feel welcome.



Haldimand Health

Barbara Klassen

Since this is the first newsletter of 2022, we would like to start by wishing everyone a happy new year! Over the past couple years, COVID-19 has put our health system under constant pressure. We want to thank our healthcare workers in Haldimand, Hamilton and Niagara Northwest who have continued to go above and beyond to care for our communities and help navigate this difficult time.

While we anticipate significant challenges will continue to face our sector, 2022 also offers a glimpse of hope as partners of the GHHN continue to convene and work collaboratively to redesign an equitable system of care for our most vulnerable. Haldimand continues to keep an equity focus on rural healthcare and collaboration. Together, we continue to reaffirm our commitment to residents across the region and reiterate our desire for stronger partnership and integration across the continuum of care. This important work continues in 2022.

We also want to extend a special thank you to the GHHN staff who continue to action our vision for an equitable and integrated region. We appreciate your hard work, passion, and commitment.



HMHO is on the move!

April 2022

Hamilton Mental Health Outreach is happy to announce that on April 1, 2022 we will be moving to 131 John Street South, right across the street from the transit station.

This new location offers us many new opportunities with more group rooms and better accessible spaces including wider halls, lifts, and washrooms.

We are pleased to be moving into the building with our IntAc partner Canadian Mental Health Association, Hamilton Branch, and are excited to be able to provide our distinct services as well as some new joint initiatives for the community.



Women's Health Drop-In Days December edition

In December, the GHHN partners hosted a two-day Women's Health Drop-in event at the YWCA. These amazing staff and volunteers provided care and support to almost 90 women.

Over the two days women participated in clinical services (PAPs, contraceptives, HIV/STI testing, wound care, tobacco cessation, mental health and addictions supports) COVID and flu shots, engagement and activities, clothing and other donations, and received free lunch and snacks.

A special thank you to the YWCA for sharing their space for the event, all the staff and volunteers providing support and services and ensuring everyone's needs were met. These days are so important on many levels- to let women know that we are here, that we care, to widen their circle of care, and remind them that there are many willing people to help and serve is what makes these days special.

The Greater Hamilton Health Network and partners are planning for the next drop-in health event in March. For more information, to make a donation, or to volunteer, please contact megan.lynch@ghhn.ca.



Meet the Team Joe Pedulla

Joe joins us as the Lead Planner for the Healthcare Navigation Service. In the coming months, Joe will be reaching out to our network to gather more information about organization's processes and navigation tools used to support patient navigation.

Joe is highly experienced in developing strong partnerships and systems to enable an integrated health care delivery model. Over the past 10 years he's led the development of mobile integrated health systems in Niagara and, most recently in Hamilton.

He holds a Master's Degree from UofT's Institute of Health Policy, Management & Evaluation and undergraduate degrees in Engineering and Physiology. He is a certified Project Management Professional and a Certified Health Executive.

To connect with Joe, email him at joe.pedulla@ghhn.ca.





Digital Health Update

Ceara Holditch



The Greater Hamilton Health Network continues to make progress on a series of foundational digital initiatives, including:

- Online Appointment Booking for Primary Care (2022-23)
- Virtual Urgent Care
- eReferral
- Surgical Transitions Remote Monitoring
- Integrated Virtual Care
- Virtual Home & Community Care
- Patient Portals
- Primary Care Data Integration POC with ClinicalConnect/ConnectMyHealth
- IDS Expansion
- ClinicalConnect and eConsult Adoption
- Secure Messaging
- Mobile Integrated Health

To support long-term strategic growth, the Digital Health Secretariat is developing a roadmap for 2022 and beyond that will highlight how the Greater Hamilton Health Network will improve digital maturity in alignment with local, regional, and provincial priorities and initiatives.

The Digital Health Secretariat membership has expanded to include new patient advisors and a French Language Services representative. Due to competing COVID-19 priorities, the next meeting of the Digital Health Secretariat will be scheduled for mid-late February 2022.

Stay Connected!



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Introducing EngageGHHN

GHHN Online Engagement



Building Community
Health Together

Welcome to the Greater Hamilton Health Network's online engagement platform, EngageGHHN. A place for the community and GHHN partners to participate in engagement opportunities to help shape healthcare in Hamilton, Haldimand and Niagara Northwest.

This platform is part of a larger Engagement Strategy to co-design healthcare across the GHHN.

We invite the community and our partners to participate in a Priority Setting Project on EngageGHHN from February 22-March 18. Partners will receive an email invitation with a link.

The information gathered through the online ideas page and survey tool will be used to help shape our cQIP plan. We know that care, services, and systems are significantly improved when they are co-designed with those who are using the services and our providers. We look forward to building community health together, please note that the final plan will be made available on our website upon completion.

Please register today at www.engageghhn.ca. If you have any questions please email us at info@ghhn.ca.

