



Melissa Minutes

By **Melissa McCallum**
GHHN Director

Happy 5 years GHHN! It is hard to believe that much time has elapsed since being approved as one of the first Ontario Health Teams in the province. It is difficult to summarize the highlights but as a collective we have achieved a lot: Hamilton was approved under cohort 1 of OHTs in 2019, partners quickly pivoted to adapt to the pandemic, we formally integrated with Haldimand and Niagara North West, we completed an extensive health equity review, we were the first team to incorporate into a not for profit entity, we grew the staff team, increased the group of instrumental patient advisors, merged physician recruitment into the GHHN, won an international award, brought in additional joint funding together,

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GHHN Blogs

Visit our [Blog](#) page and check out our recent releases! If you would like to be a contributor please email us at info@ghhn.ca to learn how.



Partnership Council

January 28th, 2025
12:00pm-1:00pm
via Zoom



Melissa Minutes

Continued...

built an extensive and diverse Board of Directors, created patient facing programs, participated in research and last year named one of 12 advanced OHTs. There is so much to say, the GHHN functions every day because of people, partners and communities coming to the table. This is “your GHHN”, you have all paved the way to partnering meaningfully and looking at ways to improve the system together. This is hard work, and I am grateful I get to work alongside all of you. Here is to the next five years!

Ethics Rounds for Community Service Providers

Catherine Gee PhD, Clinical & Organizational Ethicist, Regional Ethics Network

How to Use an Ethics Framework to Navigate Ethical Issues in Community Practice

December 6, 2024 | 12:00 - 1:00 pm

An ethics framework is an effective tool to help navigate ethical issues when they arise in your work. In this presentation you will learn what an ethics framework is and how to use it. Together we will explore a case study and walk through each step of the process so you can see the framework in action. I will then show you how an ethics framework can be adapted to your practice to empower you to forge a path forward out of uncertainty. Objectives: Learn what an ethics framework is and how to use it Apply a case study to see the ethics framework in action Learn how an ethics framework can be applied to a wide range of ethical issues that arise in your community practice.

Questions or want to register?
Contact Sue Pantitis pantitis@hhsc.ca



Ethics Corner

Winifred Badaiki, Clinical and Organizational Ethicist & Shannon Buckley, Ethics Fellow
Hamilton Health Sciences

What is Ethics and Why Should Your Organization Nurture an Ethical Culture?

Ethics is about what is good and right, and the reasons we give for the choices and decisions we make. Ethics addresses the question, “What ought I do in this situation, and why?” An ethical culture promotes reflective practice, which helps ensure ‘good’ or ‘right’ choices and decisions are made in the delivery of health care. An ethical culture promotes accountability, transparency, and integrity.

If you are asking yourself what ought I do in this situation?, then you are probably dealing with an ethical issue. If something about the situation leaves you feeling unsettled and uncertain (the Yuck! factor), then you might be facing an ethical issue. Ethical issues often fall into one of these categories:

- Ethical dilemma – when there are two (or more) ethically defensible courses of action, and there are differing opinions regarding how best to proceed.
- Ethical uncertainty – when you are not sure which ethical principles are applicable in a situation or you are unsure if the situation presents an ethical problem at all.
- Moral/ethical distress – when you are unable to carry out what you believe is the ethically right course of action.
- Ethical violation – when an action that appears to be ethically wrong is being proposed or carried out.

Passionate About Ethics? Join the Greater Hamilton Community Ethics Alliance Steering Committee! The Greater Hamilton Community

Ethics Alliance is a collaborative of community healthcare organizations and home and community service providers working together to develop ethics capacity across the region, with the goal of enhancing care to clients and providing support to staff and leaders navigating ethical challenges in practice. The Greater Hamilton Community Ethics Alliance is hosted by Hamilton Health Sciences as part of the Regional Ethics Network.

We are looking for volunteers who are interested in serving as Steering Committee members to support future directions of the Greater Hamilton Community Ethics Alliance. Any member of a community-based health or social service organization may join. The Steering Committee meets quarterly and on an ad hoc basis and members serve for a 2-year term with the option to renew for another 2-year term. As a member of the GHHN Ethics Alliance Steering Committee, you will have the opportunity to access resources to support your staff through ethics issues. Other benefits include:

- Shaping the scope and purpose of the Ethics Alliance
- Developing a capacity building plan for the coming years
- Conducting a needs assessment to inventory common ethics issues experienced in health and community services
- Developing an ethics policy and framework suitable for health and community services across the GHHN
- Identifying ethics education needs and opportunities

If you are interested in learning more about the Greater Hamilton Community Ethics Alliance or becoming a Steering Committee member, please complete this brief [survey](#). See the Regional Ethics Network [website](#) for more information or contact us at officeofethics@hhsc.ca.



ConnectMyHealth Resource Reminder

Health811 is a free, secure and confidential service Ontarians can access 24 hours a day, seven days a week, to receive health advice from a registered nurse, locate local health services and find trusted health information. Ontarians can call 811 (TTY: 1-866-797-0007), chat online or access resources online at ontario.ca/health811

Hamilton Community Wellness Hubs open in Ward 1 and Ward 6 Megan Lynch, GHHN Manager



The Greater Hamilton Health Network (GHHN) and AbleLiving Services, as part of Thrive Group, are excited to announce the launch of two Community Wellness Hubs within CityHousing Hamilton buildings week. Tenants of 405 York Boulevard and 801 Upper Gage had the opportunity to meet providers, learn about planned supports and ask questions at the launch event held Monday and Tuesday within their hubs.

The Community Wellness Hub Model is a model of integrated care for older adults that provides health and social services to support older adults living in the community to age safely, healthily and happily at home. The model was established in Burlington in 2019 as a collaboration between the Burlington Ontario Health Team and partnering housing and community service providers.

We are onboarding partners this month and into early 2025. If your organization is interested in being involved email megan.lynch@ghhn.ca





Environmental Sustainability Corner

GHHN Manager, Marijke Ljogar

This past October, GHHN Staff member Marijke Ljogar, GHHN Patient Advisor Su Heenan, and the Urban Core team gathered for tree planting at Urban Core's new site! They planted four new trees, who they longingly named George (Red Maple), Hope and Holistique (sister Burr Oaks), and Adaeze (Serviceberry), which means Princess, daughter of the King in Nigerian Igbo!

Planting trees not only helps cool neighborhood temperatures and improves air quality, but it also brings the benefits of nature to our urban spaces, positively impacting mental health.



New GHHN Physician Recruitment Video

The Greater Hamilton Health Network (GHHN) Physician Recruitment Program is excited to announce their new [video](#)!

The Physician Recruitment strives to improve access to primary care for all patients in Hamilton and Haldimand. Program staff help local family physicians navigate the process of transitioning into or out of practice and provide direct support in securing a successor or temporary (locum) coverage.

The GHHN Physician Recruitment Program is available to answer questions regarding the family medicine landscape, the local medical community, primary care payment models, licensing, immigration, the process of taking over a practice, options after retirement and more.

Learn more about the program and meet our recruitment staff here:
<https://greaterhamiltonhealthnetwork.ca/physician-recruitment/>



New GHH Primary Care Network Website and Video

The Greater Hamilton Health Network is excited to announce that our new Primary Care Network (PCN) [website](#) and [video](#) is now live!

PCN is a collection of primary care providers, workers, and organizations that provide structure to primary care in the GHHN to ensure the voices of all primary care.

PCN aims to improve the delivery and coordination of care for patients by connecting and supporting primary care providers and the primary care community so that we may thrive together within our local Ontario Health Team, the GHHN.



New GHHN Video Launch



The Greater Hamilton Health Network is excited to share our final of our three videos, sharing all about the GHHN!

The Greater Hamilton Health Network (GHHN) is one of the first Ontario Health Teams across the province, with a purpose of transforming healthcare in partnership with patients, families, care partners, primary care, local organizations and the community. A collaboration of local health and social service partners, the GHHN includes representation from more than 70 organizations. We are a dedicated group of professionals, organizations and people with lived experience working to co-design a patient centred health system, grounded in engagement, health equity and the local needs of the communities we serve across Hamilton, Haldimand, and Niagara Northwest.

Watch the new video [here](#).

Be sure to check out our highlight reel as we celebrated 5 years of the GHHN! Watch [here](#).



Ontario Health Teams partner with Streamliners to bring HealthPathways to Canada

Supporting integrated health outcomes with groundbreaking new model

The Greater Hamilton Health Network (GHHN), Burlington Ontario Health Team (BOHT) and Middlesex Ontario Health Team (MLOHT) has partnered with Streamliners to bring HealthPathways to the front lines of primary care and healthcare clinicians. The launch of HealthPathways in Canada marks a significant milestone in integrated healthcare, providing clinicians with real-time, evidence-based pathways to improve the management of chronic conditions and other diagnoses, ensuring more effective and consistent care at every stage of the patient journey.

For more information, read our media release [here](#).

Virtual Urgent Care Segment Update

Virtual Urgent Care 101:

- **What is VUC?** VUC provides patients with access to healthcare services for non-emergency conditions through online consultations with licensed healthcare providers, such as Nurse Practitioners.
- **Who can access VUC?** VUC is open to children and adults across Southwestern Ontario.
- **How do patients access VUC?** Whenever possible your family doctor is your first point of access for care. A virtual urgent care appointment may be right for you if you or a loved one have a medical issue that is NOT life threatening, but requires urgent medical attention. Patients can book a same day or next day appointment for VUC at [Urgent Care Ontario](https://www.urgentcareontario.ca).
- **Learn more here:** <https://www.urgentcareontario.ca>



An Evidence-Based Position on Harm Reduction

The Greater Hamilton Health Network recognizes that harm reduction and substance use treatment are on the same continuum of essential services and must exist to prevent further harms from the drug crisis. The GHHN acknowledges the need to adopt evidence-based and proven interventions, and recognizes the following as essential services in our community: opioid agonist therapy, naloxone, supervised consumption sites, and sterile inhalation and injection supplies. The GHHN commits to ongoing support for our health service partners who are providing essential harm reduction services such as these to anyone using drugs within our community.

View the full statement [here](#).





Haldimand Corner

**Bill Helmeczi, Haldimand
Stakeholder Council Co-Chair**

As many of you know our community is struggling with what could be considered a health epidemic – addictions and the associated overdoses that require emergency medical attention that could result in death. Although the issue is not new, the negative impact on our community is worsening. This is a brief update on three intersecting programs and strategies to combat this concern. The Lighthouse Community Strategy for addictions, that originated this past summer, has generated tremendous community collaboration and is increasing its work in this area. Second Haldimand put in an application to the government for a Homelessness and Addiction Recovery and Treatment (HART) HUB to support clients with addictions, homelessness, and mental health issues. Lastly, the RAMM clinic has made process and organizational changes to best support Haldimand. These three programs and strategies offer hope and high-quality support, along with all the existing support and interventions in our community.

**Stay
Connected!**



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