



## Melissa Minutes

By **Melissa McCallum**  
GHHN Director

Happy Spring GHHN – hoping the snow is far behind us. With the new season comes a bit of a reset—renewed energy, fresh priorities, and a chance to look ahead. As the new fiscal year kicks off, there's lots happening across the OHT landscape. New priorities are emerging, and with the recent announcement of primary care funding, we're actively working to align and respond. None of this would be possible without the hard work and dedication of our partners and staff. Your efforts continue to move us forward, and we're so grateful for all that you do.

Here's what we've been up to—and what's coming next!

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### Partnership Council

May 27th  
12:00-1:00pm  
via Microsoft Teams



### HealthPathways

The April HealthPathways Newsletter is now [here](#)! For more HealthPathways information, visit the [GHHN website](#).



## Hamilton's Community Health Status Report 2024

The CHSR report identifies a number of priority health issues and health inequities. In March 2025, the GHHN Health Equity Council discussed the findings from the CHSR and how the CHSR might be useful to equity-based initiatives within the GHHN. Health service providers are encouraged to consider the health disparities outlined in the CHSR as we move into planning for the 2025/26 year, especially as it pertains to equity requirements embedded in any Service Accountability Agreements.

## GHHN's 13<sup>th</sup> Women's Health Days February 2025

The Greater Hamilton Health Network held their very first Haldimand Older Adult and Caregiver Health Day on November 14th.

We saw a total of 85 participants. There were 13 organizations offering 21 services. Haldimand Public Health saw 12 - walk ins for their COVID/Flu immunization clinic. The event feedback survey indicated that 100% of participants were happy with the services and met their needs, and 2/23 used services they don't normally use.

The GHHN will continue to offer these events and plan to rotate locations through the area to ensure effective reach.

Thank you so much to all the service providers, staff, volunteers, sponsors and donors for making these days possible, we couldn't have done without the support.

If you would like to get involved in supporting the Greater Hamilton Health Network's Health Days, please email [megan.lynch@ghhn.ca](mailto:megan.lynch@ghhn.ca).





# Ethics Corner

**Catherine Gee, PhD**

Clinical & Organizational Ethicist,  
Regional Ethics Network

**Sun Drews**

Ethics Fellow, Hamilton Health  
Sciences

As community health workers on the frontlines of care, you often deal with complex situations that go beyond medical needs. Whether it's navigating family dynamics, understanding cultural nuances, or balancing client autonomy with safety, you likely encounter ethical challenges on a regular basis that can be tough to handle alone.

We can all find ourselves in situations where we're unsure about the right course of action. Let's consider a scenario in which you're working with a client who is a senior living independently at home. Your team has recognized signs of dementia during their weekly visits and is concerned that he is not eating regularly and has had recurring falls. Recently there was a small fire when the stove was left unattended. At times your staff has not been able to enter his home, as he does not come to the door when they arrive for their scheduled visits. When discussing these concerns with your client and his family member, they insist that the best option for him is to continue living at home.

You may feel conflicted about how to respect your client's autonomy and support their goal of living independently, while ensuring that they are safe and well-cared for. In this scenario, an ethics policy and framework can provide you with a structured approach to understand the ethical principles and values involved, such as autonomy, dignity, beneficence, and patient and family-centred care, and help guide your decision-making process.

The Greater Hamilton Community Ethics Alliance (CEA) can help point you in the right direction when issues arise that require specialized resources. The CEA can direct you to relevant healthcare policy and Ontario legislation, such as the Ontario Health Care Consent Act (HCCA). In some cases, you may be advised to connect with the Public Guardian & Trustee or the Consent and Capacity Board.

The CEA provides resources, tools, and education to navigate ethical dilemmas in a thoughtful and well-informed way. Workshops, training sessions, and case study reviews can help deepen understanding of ethical issues and build your team's capacity to handle dilemmas effectively. Fostering a proactive approach helps prevent burnout, enhance resilience, and equip teams to manage the emotional and ethical complexities of frontline healthcare work. Every situation is different so recognizing when to seek additional support is crucial to ensuring that clients receive comprehensive, ethical care.

Does your organization have an ethics policy and framework? Would you be interested in working with the Greater Hamilton Community Ethics Alliance (CEA) to develop an ethics policy and framework that could be used across the GHHN? If so please reach out to [officeofethics@hhsc.ca](mailto:officeofethics@hhsc.ca) for more information. We also invite you to contact us if you are interested in learning more about the CEA or becoming a steering committee member. We look forward to hearing from you!





# Ontario Health Call for Proposals:

## Expanding Attachment to Primary Care

Ontario Health has issued its first official call for proposals to create and expand up to 80 new **interprofessional primary care teams** in high-need communities, including the GHHN! This initiative is part of Ontario's broader Primary Care Action Plan, which aims to connect **two million unattached people** to publicly funded primary care by 2029 in yearly increments:

### What will this Round of Funding Focus On?

- Communities with **high numbers of people not attached to a primary care provider**, including those on the Health Care Connect waitlist.
- Ontario Health has identified eligible FSAs (the first three digits of a postal code) – **within the GHHN, the LOR area has been identified.**
- Applications must be submitted through the local Ontario Health Team and their Primary Care Network. However, Indigenous-led proposals may be submitted without OHT/PCN coordination but are encouraged to collaborate where possible.
- Each OHT may submit one proposal per postal code, with a maximum of five total proposals in this round.
- Deadline for submission: May 2, 2025, at 5:00 p.m. EDT.

### What Should Proposals Focus On?

1. **Primary care attachment:** Connecting new patients, especially those currently unattached.
2. **Readiness to implement:** Ability to start attaching by summer 2025.
3. **Alignment with provincial team-based care principles:** Access, equity, digital integration, and collaboration.

### What's our Local Response?

The GHHN and GHHN Primary Care Network are actively responding to this opportunity to enhance access to care in our community. To make this happen we are:

- Understanding the unattached population in LOR
- Meeting with and developing plans with LOR primary care providers and practices to attach more patients
- Connecting with stakeholders

Stay tuned for updates as we work to strengthen primary care access in our region!



# Mohawk Medbuy and the OHT Connect Program



## Unique Program Helps a Growing Number of Ontario Health Teams Save on Essential Medical Supplies

The costs of running a non-acute care practice – including medical supplies – continue to climb. Mohawk Medbuy's OHTconnect™ program is helping a growing number of providers access significant savings on the essential products they use to deliver quality patient care. There's no cost to enroll – and no purchase volume requirements.

More than 144 community health partners across 30 OHTs are tapping into the value of OHTconnect:

- Clinically vetted supplies, including PPE, instruments, disinfectants, syringes, surgical supplies... and more
- Easy, online point-and-click ordering
- Free\* next-day delivery through The Stevens Company
- Access to savings on office supplies through Staples Professional
- Total average savings of 14%\*\*

\*Delivery is free on orders of \$300 or more, after tax. \*\*As reported by participating sites; your savings may vary.

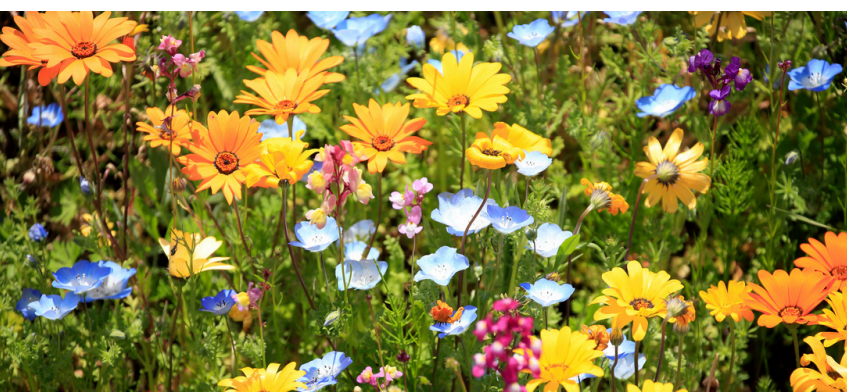
## About Mohawk Medbuy & the OHTconnect Program

Mohawk Medbuy (MMC) is a not-for-profit supply chain organization that negotiates large-scale contracts for medical / surgical products, pharmaceuticals and equipment on behalf of hundreds of Canadian hospitals. OHTconnect lets you access these same bulk pricing agreements for 200+ core products – ordered online and delivered directly to your site.

## Frees Up Resources for Frontline Patient Care

"Our community health partners report that the OHTconnect program is making a real difference for them. The streamlined ordering process and cost savings help them redirect resources to where they're needed most – frontline patient care."  
– Nadia Prescott, Executive Transformation Lead, Ottawa West Four Rivers Ontario Health Team

Questions? To find out more or to enroll, reach out to  
[OHTconnect@mohawkmedbuy.ca](mailto:OHTconnect@mohawkmedbuy.ca).





## Marijke Ljogar

**Project Manager,  
Environmental  
Sustainability**

### **Reflecting on Earth Day: Health and the Environment Go Hand in Hand**

As Earth Day passes each April, we're given a moment to pause and reflect—not just on the state of our planet, but on the role we all play in protecting it. For those of us in healthcare, this reflection carries special weight.

The connection between environmental health and human health has never been clearer. The effects of climate change—extreme weather, rising temperatures, and worsening air quality—are already impacting the well-being of our communities. Locally we see the rising rates of respiratory conditions, the mental health impacts of climate anxiety, and the strain that environmental crises place on our most vulnerable populations. Earth Day may come once a year, but its message is ongoing. Throughout Hamilton, Haldimand, and Niagara Northwest, we're thinking more about how we can build sustainability into everything we do—from reducing waste and energy use in our facilities to supporting low-carbon models of care like deprescribing initiatives. Every decision we make has the potential to contribute to a healthier planet and healthier people.

As we move forward from Earth Day, let's carry its lessons with us. Let's continue to ask: how can we care for our patients in ways that also care for the world they live in? Because good health doesn't stop at our clinic doors—it starts with the air we breathe, the water we drink, and the planet we all share.

# GHHN Environmental Sustainability Corner



*A space to learn,  
share and work  
towards greener  
healthcare.*





## HealthPathways Launch Event

We are excited to invite Primary Care Providers to the HealthPathways Launch Event on June 10th, 2025 at 7:00 PM. This virtual event marks the official launch of the Community HealthPathways platform across Burlington, Greater Hamilton and Middlesex London Ontario Health Teams. While Healthpathways is already used by over 60 health systems worldwide, this will be the first ever implementation in Canada.

The program will provide primary care and healthcare clinicians with rapid access to tailored, evidence-based pathways of care and local service information and directories promoting consistency and quality across the regions. We look forward to your participation in this exciting milestone.

### Event Overview:

- Introduction
- Demo and review of a localized pathway and associated request pages
- How to sign up for HealthPathways
- Q&A and Next Steps

### Details:

- Date: June 10th, 2025
- Time: 7:00 – 8:00 PM
- Location: Virtual Meeting (Zoom details will be provided in the confirmation email)

Don't miss this opportunity to be part of a transformative step forward in healthcare delivery. Primary Care Providers are invited to [Register](#) and join us as we unveil HealthPathways!

## GHHN Primary Care Network and partners recognized for connecting over 15,500 people to primary care!

15,500+ people across Hamilton, Haldimand, and Niagara Northwest are now connected to primary care — a remarkable milestone made possible through collaboration across the GHHN Primary Care Network (PCN).

Thanks to a \$2.2M investment and the combined efforts of more than 10 health and community organizations, this achievement reflects what's possible when we work together toward a shared goal: better access to care for everyone.

[Watch the video](#) from Deputy Premier and Minister of Health Sylvia Jones, Chair of the Primary Care Action Team Dr. Jane Philpott, and MPP Monica Ciriello in recognition for this achievement.





## Haldimand Corner

### Bill Helmeczi, Co-Chair

The Haldimand Stakeholder Council has recently had a change in its co-chairs. Sharon Moore, who was one of the first co-chairs of the Council and as such has been instrumental in many of its achievements, stepped down as her term has come to an end. Sharon's leadership and community knowledge will not be lost as she will continue as a member of the Council. We are very pleased to announce that Barbara Klassen will be the new co-chair. Barb will transition smoothly into this role, as many of you know she had previously been a co-chair along with Sharon. Barb brings a wealth of history, expertise, and a strong commitment to the Haldimand community. We know the Council will continue to flourish with Barb leading the way.

## Canadian Young Caregivers Conference

### Toronto Metropolitan University and the Young Caregivers Association

After years of dedicated research and collaboration to raise awareness and address the challenges faced by young caregivers in Canada, Toronto Metropolitan University (TMU) and the Young Caregivers Association (YCA) are proud to host the first-ever Canadian Young Caregivers Conference and Café Scientifique: Young Caregivers.

We will bring together a wide range of stakeholders including young caregivers, educators, allies, community leaders, service providers, and decision/policy makers. Together, the event will raise awareness about young caregivers and contribute to opportunities for meaningful change for young caregivers in Canada. The event will be recorded to amplify its impact over time as we work towards getting young caregivers recognized and supported nationally in Canada.

The Canadian Young Caregivers Conference will take place on Saturday, May 3, 2025, from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM EST at the Art Gallery of Hamilton (123 King Street West, Hamilton, Ontario, L8P 4S8) for invited guests determined through our selective application process, please visit the registration form [here](#).

That being said, it will occur alongside a portion of the event available to the public called the Café Scientifique: Young Caregivers to be held from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM EST featuring an art display; offering artists, stakeholders, and the public a shared space to better understand young caregivers. Artists

An interactive portion for networking and engagement in meaningful discussions about young caregivers will be available in the morning from 8:00 - 9:30 AM EST.

Visit [www.youngcaregiverscan.ca/youngcaregiversconference](http://www.youngcaregiverscan.ca/youngcaregiversconference) for more information.



# Stay Connected!



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