

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The work of the Greater Hamilton Health Network and its Partnership Council members takes place on traditional territories of the Erie, Neutral, Huron-Wendat, Haudenosaunee, and Mississaugas. Indigenous people who have lived here since time immemorial and have deep connections to these lands.

This land is covered by the Dish With One Spoon Wampum Belt Covenant, which was an agreement between the Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabek to share and care for the resources around the Great Lakes. We further acknowledge that this land is covered by the Between the Lakes Purchase, 1792, between the Crown and the Mississauga of the Credit First Nation.

The GHHN catchment area continues to be home to vibrant, diverse Indigenous communities who have distinct and specific histories and needs, as well as a constitutionally protected treaty. The GHHN is located next to Six Nations of the Grand River and Mississaugas of the Credit but most Indigenous peoples in the GHHN catchment area live in urban Hamilton. We honour this diversity and respect the knowledge, leadership, and governance frameworks within Indigenous communities.

We are grateful for the opportunity to live, meet, work, and are committed to engaging and building meaningful relationships and partnerships with the Indigenous communities, Six Nations of the Grand River, Mississaugas of the Credit and Urban Indigenous populations on this territory.

CONTENTS

- 4. Welcome
- 7. What is an OHT
- 8. Who we serve
- 9. Acknowledgements
- 10. About GHHN
 - Vision
- 11. 2021 Strategic Pillars
- 12. Engagement Mission
 - Purpose
- 15. Patient, Family, and Care Partner Declaration of Values
- 18. GHHN Engagement Principles
- 21. Engagement Continuum
- 22. Levels of Engagement
- 23. Models of Engagement
- 25. Participation Guidelines
- 26. Patient Advisor Roles and Responsibilities
- 28. Role of Staff and GHHN Partners
- 30. Engagement Planning Process
- 32. References
- 33. Appendix 1

Welcome



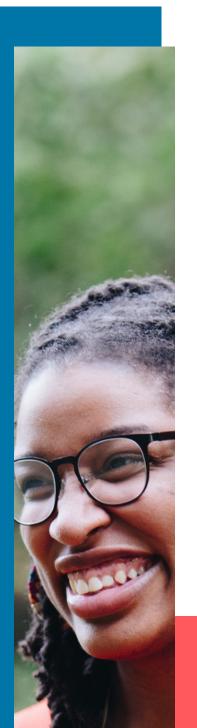


Sarah Precious Manager of Engagement and Communications

The GHHN is committed to engaging patients, families, care partners, organizations, our communities, and primary care in co-designing and transforming the healthcare system at the personal, program, and system levels in the greater Hamilton area.

We know that services, programs, and systems are significantly improved when they are co-designed with those who are using the services. They are more fiscally responsible, more likely to be utilized, promote ownership of care, strengthen the patient-service provider relationship, and promote a culture of inclusion and diversity.

Foundational to our engagement work is the GHHN Health Equity framework that was developed to serve as a guide on issues of equity as well as a complement to the governance report by Ernst and Young that was completed in early 2021. The GHHN Health Equity Report was the culmination of substantial community consultation and was overseen by the GHHN Health Equity Steering Committee. The GHHN engaged the lived experiences, leadership, and expertise of our communities to understand our history and develop a bold vision and action plan to build a connected health care system centered in health equity.



The supplementary report contains a thorough description of experiences in the health care system and barriers that exist for the following Hamilton communities: Indigenous people, immigrants and refugees, the Francophone population, the Black communities, 2SLGBTQIA+, people who use drugs, and people who live in rural areas. We are committed to continuing to build meaningful relationships and partnerships with these communities. The GHHN supports Indigenous health in Indigenous hands and looks forward to opportunities to learn and work together.

The GHHN is committed to engaging patients, families, and care partners as leaders throughout the governance structure, and has embedded patients in leadership roles on their Executive Council from its inception. As we continue on our new governance journey we look forward to expanding and developing these important roles.

The GHHN is committed to being open, transparent and accountable, and to meaningfully engage and empower our communities, patients, families, and care partners across all GHHN activities.



Please visit greaterhamiltonhealthnetwork.ca to view learn more about our Health Equity work or email info@ghhn.ca for more information.

TERMINOLOGY

We respect and appreciate that there are many terms to describe those who receive health care services. Please note that for the purposes of this document, patient, client, and persons with lived/living experience are interchangeable.



WHAT IS AN OHT?

The Ontario government is building a connected health care system centered around patients, families, and care partners to:

- strengthen local services
- make it easier for patients to navigate the system
- create seamless transitions between providers

Ontario Health Teams are being introduced to provide a new way of organizing and delivering care that is more connected to patients in their local communities. Under Ontario Health Teams, health care providers (including hospitals, doctors, and home and community care providers) work as one coordinated team – no matter where they provide care.

Ontario Health Teams are groups of providers and organizations that are clinically and fiscally accountable for delivering a full and coordinated continuum of care to a defined geographic population.



SERVING THE GREATER HAMILTON AREA







ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The GHHN Engagement Strategy was cocreated in partnership with patients, families, and care partners.

A special thank you to:

Barbara Dolanjski Bernice King Bonnie Pataran Cindy Machida David Cooke Ike Agbassi Janice Duda-Kosar Jodi Rock John Fleming Kimberly Ritchie Kirsten Culver Leila Ryan Neil Johnston Phyllis Fehr Susan Tkachuk

Please direct all inquiries to: Greater Hamilton Health Network info@ghhn.ca greaterhamiltonhealthnetwork.ca



This report has been endorsed and approved by the GHHN patient advisors and the GHHN Executive Council.

ABOUT THE GHHN

The Greater Hamilton Health Network (GHHN) is one of the first Ontario Health Teams to be established in the province, with the purpose of transforming healthcare in partnership with patients, families, care partners, primary care, local organizations, and the community. The GHHN represents healthcare leadership across the Greater Hamilton area.



Building integrated healthcare is a shared responsibility



Melissa McCallum Director

GHHN VISION

A healthier community that provides an equitable and seamless continuum of care that actively improves population health and meets the individual needs of our community. A population that is:

- Healthier, with lower rates of chronic illness;
- Activated, informed, and empowered to navigate the system; and
- Treated equitably

2021 STRATEGIC PILLARS





STRATEGY

STRATEGIC PILLARS

Vision

A healthier community that provides an equitable and seamless continuum of care that actively improves population health and meets the individual needs of our community. A population that is healthier, with lower rates of chronic illness; activated, informed and empowered to navigate the system; and treated equitably.

Health Equity



- Adopt a commitment to health equity signed off by all partners in the GHHN
- Adopt a
 health equity
 framework
 that will guide
 the work of
 the GHHN to
 meet the
 needs of the
 populations
 and
 communities
 we serve

Governance



- Strengthen the core GHHN governance structure by defining roles, memberships and councils.
- Incorporate the broader GHHN
- Unify the primary care sector by developing a primary care governance structure

Living Healthy in Congregate



- Create interconnected systems of support for those living in congregate care
- Year 1 focus
 on 4 streams
 of work:
 women's
 homelessness,
 residential
 care facilities,
 retirement
 homes and
 long-term care
 homes

Digital/ Virtual Care



- Expand patient and provider access to virtual care technologies
- Improve information sharing amongst patient and providers
- Design virtual care programs that improve efficiency, experiences and population health outcomes

Engagement



- Develop
 Declaration of
 Patient Values
- Develop an Engagement Strategy
- Develop
 Engagement
 Models
- Develop an online platform for broader community engagement
- Ongoing engagement with Patients, Families and Care Partners



ENGAGEMENT MISSION

The GHHN will form active partnerships with patients, families, and care partners and meaningfully engage them as decision makers in their own care, as well as at the program and system levels. The GHHN is engaging patients, families, and care partners, community organizations, the community and primary care to co-design an equitable and culturally safe health care system in the Greater Hamilton area that is connected and patient centred.



PURPOSE

The transformation of health care in the Greater Hamilton Area will be driven by the needs of patients, families, and care partners.

The development of the GHHN Patient, Family and Care Partners, Partnership and Engagement Strategy will be an integral step in creating an equitable, culturally safe, patient-centered health care system.

The Engagement Strategy will set out the overarching principles needed to guide and embed these essential partners in all work of the GHHN.

This strategy will serve as an ongoing demonstration of our commitment to patients, families, and care partners, and support a culture and health care system that is connected, strengthened, and patient centered.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

WHAT IS IT?

is the process of working collaboratively with and through groups of people affiliated by geographic proximity, special interest, or similar situations to address issues affecting the well-being of all individuals. It will be a powerful vehicle that will improve the health of the community and its members. It often involves partnerships and coalitions that help mobilize resources and influence systems, change relationships among partners, and serve as catalysts for changing policies, programs, and practices. CDC, 1997 (6)

PATIENT ENGAGEMENT

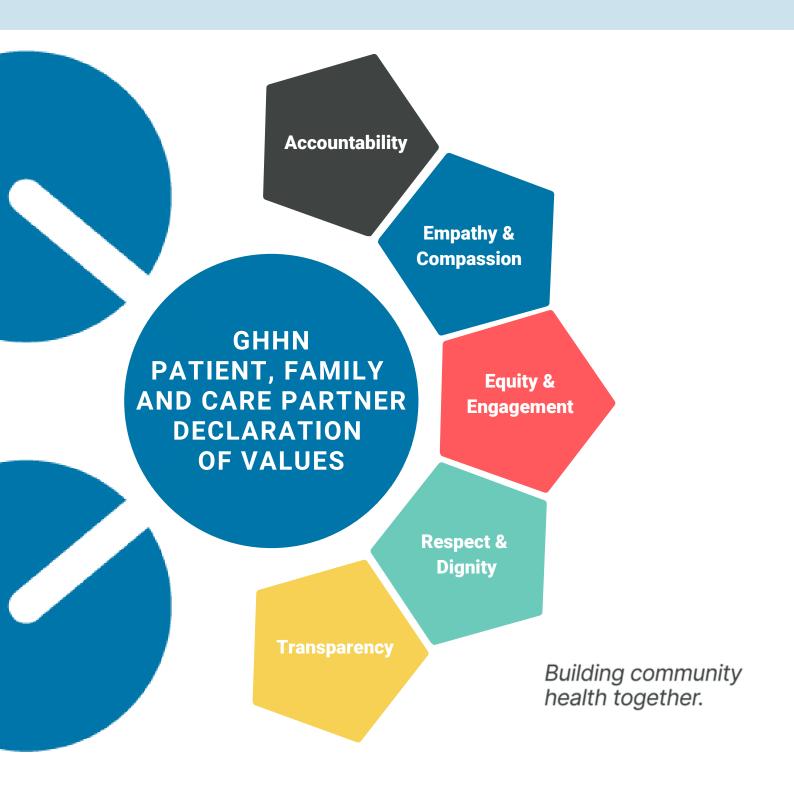
WHAT IS IT?

means patients, family members, and other informal caregivers, and health care professionals actively collaborating to improve health care quality in Ontario. It includes individual health care professionals, health care organizations, and the province partnering with patients and their loved ones in different ways to understand their experiences, preferences, and needs, and respond to them.

Ontario's Patient Engagement Framework, 2017 (4)



PATIENT, FAMILY, AND CARE PARTNER DECLARATION OF VALUES



A MESSAGE FROM THE GHHN, PATIENTS, FAMILIES AND CARE PARTNERS

The purpose of the Patient Family Care Partner Declaration of Values (PFCDV) is to articulate patient, family and care partner expectations of Ontario's health care system. The Declaration is intended to serve as a compass for individuals and organizations who are involved in healthcare and social service delivery and reflects a summary of the principles and values that patients, families and care partners note as important to them. It is meant to create a partnership between individuals interacting with the health care system including patient, family and care partners and those who provide health services. The PFCDV should be used by providers across the health care and social service system in addition to patients, families and care partners to inform partnership in care.

The GHHN invites our partners to adopt and uphold the following expectations of our healthcare system in support of patients, families and care partners.

Note: The purpose of this Patient, Family and Caregiver Declaration of Values, drafted by the Minister's Patient and Family Advisory Council in consultation with Ontarians, is to articulate patient, family and caregiver expectations of Ontario's health care system. The Declaration is intended to serve as a compass for the individuals and organizations who are involved in health care and reflects a summary of the principles and values that patients, families and caregivers say are important to them. The Declaration is not intended to establish, alter or affect any legal rights or obligations, and must be interpreted in a manner that is consistent with applicable law.

Patient, Family and Care Partner Declaration of Values

Accountability

- Open and seamless communication about our care.
- Everyone on our care team will be accountable and supported to carry out their roles and responsibilities effectively.
- A health care culture that demonstrates that it values the experiences of patients, families and care partners and incorporates this knowledge into policy, planning and decision making.
- Patient, family and care partner experiences and outcomes will drive the
 accountability of the health care system and those who deliver services, programs
 and care within it.
- Health care providers will act with integrity by acknowledging their abilities, biases and limitations.
- Health care providers will comply with their professional responsibilities and to deliver safe care.

Empathy & Compassion

- Health care providers will act with empathy, kindness and compassion.
- Individualized care plans that acknowledge our unique physical, mental, emotional, cultural and spiritual needs.
- We will be treated in a manner free from stigma, assumptions, bias and blame.
- Health care system providers and leaders will understand that their words, actions and decisions strongly impact the lives of patients, families and care partners.

Equity & Engagement

- Equal and fair access to the health care system and services for all regardless of ability, race, ethnicity, language, background, place of origin, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, religion, socioeconomic status, education or location within Ontario.
- Equal and fair access to health care services for people with disabilities and those who have historically faced stigmatization.
- Opportunities to be included in health care policy development and program design at local, regional and provincial levels of the health care system.
- Awareness of and efforts to eliminate systemic racism and discrimination, including identification and removal of systemic barriers that contribute to inequitable health care outcomes (with particular attention to those most adversely impacted by systemic racism).

Respect & Dignity

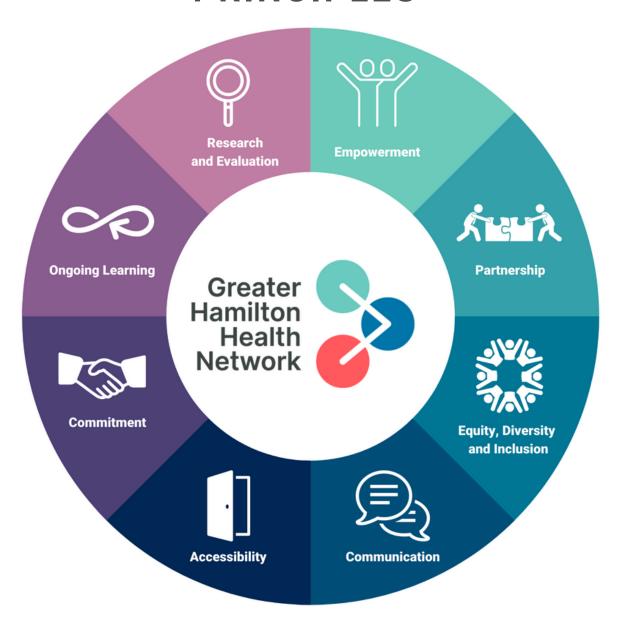
- Our individual identity, beliefs, history, culture and ability will be respected in our care.
- Health care providers will introduce themselves and identify their role in our care.
- We will be recognized as part of the care team, to be fully informed about our condition, and have the right to make choices in our care.
- Patients, families and care partners be treated with respect and considered valuable partners on the care team.
- Our personal health information belongs to us, and that it remain private, respected and protected.

Transparency

- We will be proactively and meaningfully involved in conversations about our care, considering options for our care, and decisions about our care.
- Our health records will be accurate, complete, available and accessible across the provincial health system at our request.
- A transparent, clear and fair process to express a complaint, concern, or compliment about our care that does not impact the quality of the care we receive.



GHHN ENGAGEMENT PRINCIPLES



Engagement Principles are essential when co-designing a system that is accountable and constantly improving. These principles outline the elements needed for the community to work together effectively, respectfully, and intentionally to transform healthcare in the greater Hamilton area. These statements do not stand alone, they work together to form a comprehensive standard for engagement in healthcare.

The GHHN Engagement Principles were developed in part based on the work of the Ontario Centre of Excellence for Child and Youth Mental Health, Quality Standard for Family Engagement (5)

GHHN ENGAGEMENT PRINCIPLES



Empowerment

Partners share trusting, respectful relationships that enable experience, expertise, and perspectives to be clearly reflected in system planning and improvement efforts.



Partnership

Partners are fully engaged in the change process and those in system leadership roles are accountable for embedding this commitment in system planning and improvement efforts.



Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion

Engagement practices are impartial and inclusive. The diversity of partners is valued and is representative of the communities served.



Communication

Communication among all partners is timely, clear, inclusive, and respectful.



Accessibility

People with lived experience and their healthcare partners work together to identify and address barriers to participation.



Commitment

Partners are fully engaged in the change process and those in system leadership roles are accountable for embedding this commitment in system planning and improvement efforts.



Ongoing learning

Participants in patient engagement learn about each other's perspectives and experiences, the issues at hand, and how the healthcare system may be improved.



Research and Evaluation:

People with lived experience and healthcare partners jointly research, evaluate and make ongoing quality improvements in healthcare.

CO-DESIGN

WHAT IS IT?



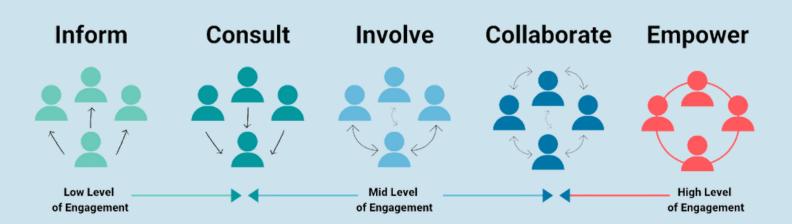
Co-design in healthcare involves the equal partnership of individuals who work within the system (healthcare staff), individuals who have lived experience of using the system (patients and their families/care partners) and the 'designers' of the new system to improve health systems.

Int J Environ Res Public Health. (2)



ENGAGEMENT CONTINUUM

The content below has been adapted from the International Association for Public Participation (IAP2) (1)



Level of	Inform	Consult	Involve	Collaborate	Empower
Engagement					
Who	GHHN Initiated	Predominantly GHHN Initiated	Patients, Families, Care Partners, Primary Care, Organizations and Community	Patients, Families, Care Partners, Primary Care, Organizations and Community	Predominantly GHHN Initiated
What	-Website -Newsletter -Social Media -Media -Partnership meetings	-Online engagement -Focus Groups -Interviews -Surveys -Public Meetings	-Workshops -Online Engagement	-committees -co-design -co-decision making	-leadership roles -co-decision making
Goal	To provide the public with balanced and objective information to assist them in understanding the problem, alternatives, opportunities and/or solutions.	To obtain public feedback on analysis and alternatives.	To work directly with the public Throughout the process to ensure that public concerns and aspirations are consistently understood and considered.	To partner with the public in each aspect of the decision, including the development of alternatives and the identification of the preferred solution.	To place final decision making in the hands of the public.
Commitment	We will keep you informed.	We will keep you informed, listen to and acknowledge concerns and aspirations, and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision.	We will work with you to ensure that your concerns and aspirations are considered and evaluated and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision.	We will look to you for advice and innovation in formulating solutions and look to incorporate your advice and Recommendations into the decisions to the maximum extent possible.	We will implement what you decide.





LEVELS OF ENGAGEMENT





Personal Care and Health Decisions— Engaging in the domain of personal care and health decisions means health care professionals partner with patients, families, and care partners in processes of shared decision-making and care. (4)

Program and Service Design— Engaging in the domain of organizational program and service design means that the GHHN initiates engagement activities that partner with patients, families, and care partners for the purpose of improving specific health programs, services, or other organization—wide projects such as quality and safety improvement initiatives.(4) These activities may be ad-hoc or time-limited and draw upon the unique experiences of patients, families, and care partners in relation to the service being redesigned.

Policy, Strategy, and System Level Discussions— Engaging in broad domains of policy and strategy means the GHHN and its members work together with patients, families, and care partners to enable system-level changes. This can include driving more accountable health priorities, plans and policies.(4) By embedding patient, family, and care partners within collaborative decision making structures, the GHHN will be enabled to foster a culture of system co-design that is more likely to be long-standing and effective.



MODELS OF ENGAGEMENT

The GHHN will incorporate various models of engagement to best support the needs of the greater Hamilton area, to ensure that engagement is inclusive, equitable, and accessible taking place at the personal, organizational, and system levels.



Patient, Family and Care Partner Leadership Network

The leadership network is made up of 14 members and one Chair.

The network will:

- advise the GHHN on key health care priorities that have an impact on patient care and experiences
- drive meaningful changes to local programs and policies
- help inform health care plans in the Greater Hamilton Network

The leadership network has identified areas of focus to include integrated and coordinated care, system navigation, access to care and information, health literacy, and patient partnership. The GHHN and the Chair of the leadership network maintain regular contact with members, including quarterly meetings.

Patient Engagement Network

A diverse group of patient advisors will be identified and supported through onboarding and training to further engage existing groups in the community who are already meeting and/or engaging individuals with lived/living experience.

Patient Engagement Pool

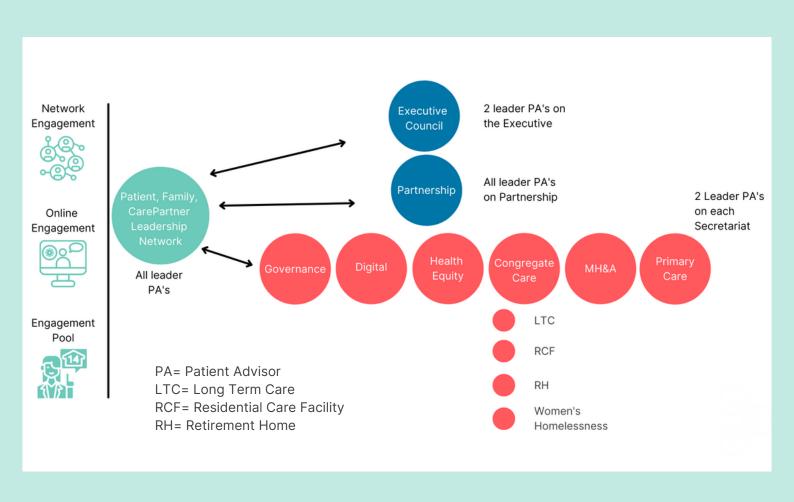
The pool will consist of patients, families, and care partners (people with lived/living experience) who don't want to lead engagement work but want to support project-specific work, provide input via surveys, etc., and want to be kept in the know of GHHN work.



Engage GHHN- Online Engagement

Engage the broader community through an online engagement platform (Bang the Table).

- ongoing engagement
- communication opportunities
- broader base of participants
- diverse community representation
- various levels and forms of engagement
 - survey
 - mapping
 - o story telling
 - forum
- private project platforms





PARTICIPATION GUIDELINES

- Be respectful of all participants;
- Be open-minded to all ideas;
- Communicate respectfully and in a timely fashion;
- Follow the process and time frame;
- Allow everyone the opportunity to speak;
- Allow people to speak without interruption;
- Be aware of your own power and privilege;
- All questions are welcome;
- Try to include everyone; and
- Turn cell phones off/mute.



PATIENT ADVISOR ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The advisors for the Greater Hamilton Health Network have been selected because they come with lived/living experience as service users within the health care or social services system. Engagement is foundational to building a connected health care system centered around patients, families, and care partners to strengthen local services, make it easier to navigate the system and create seamless transitions between providers.

We recognize that everyone comes with different skills and experiences and we celebrate that which makes us individuals!





Roles and Responsibilities

- Work in partnership with the GHHN to co-design a connected health care system
- Participate in design, quality improvement, and program development
- Ensure that Patient/Client voices are heard, considered, and included
- Keep the patient/client as the focal point of our health/social services systems
- Provide constructive feedback, when and where appropriate
- Maintain confidentiality of patient/client and organizational information
- Attend all scheduled meetings and come prepared having read the material provided prior to meetings
- Provide feedback to the Project Management Office when unclear about the role and/or contributions

Skills

- Ability to advocate effectively
- Ability to support others and work from a strengthsbased perspective
- Ability to build rapport with others
- Ability to work collaboratively with patients, families, care partners (people with lived experience), and health care providers
- Able to use their personal experience constructively and look beyond their own experience
- Strong communication and facilitation skills
- Open to feedback and direction

Characteristics

- Respectful of others and their perspective
- Good Listener
- Team player
- Non-judgmental, Positive attitude with a desire to bring about meaningful change



ROLE OF STAFF AND GHHN PARTNERS

The Greater Hamilton Health Network will serve as leaders/allies in guiding the engagement work. Staff is expected to provide continuous support and encouragement to all people with lived/living experience and ensure the program environment is emotionally and physically safe for all participants. They will be available to provide direction, support, and connect those with lived/living experience to resources, services, and people as needed.





Staff role and responsibility

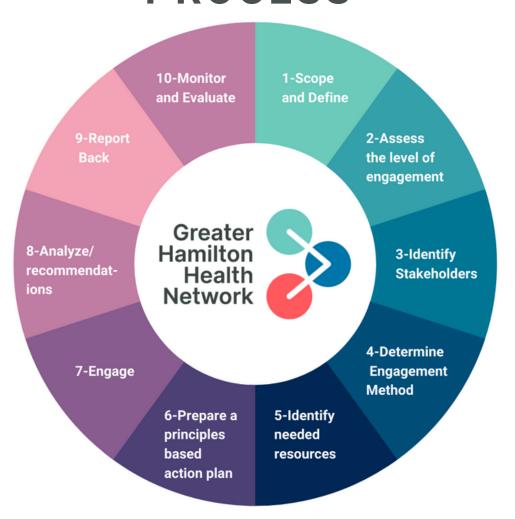
- Work in partnership with Patient Advisors to co-design a connected health care system
- Ensure that Patient/Client voices are heard, considered, and included
- Keep the patient/client as the focal point of our health/social services systems
- Attend all meetings
- Keep meeting minutes
- Provide leadership opportunities
- Provide opportunities for capacity building through workshops/guest speakers/projects/leadership development
- Work with Patient Advisors as partners
- Provide constructive feedback, when and where appropriate
- Be aware of how their own role, power, and privilege can impact others
- Maintain the confidentiality of patient/client and organizational information
- Allow everyone the opportunity to speak and ensure all are encouraged/supported to share their perspectives

Characteristics

- Respectful of others and their perspective
- Good Listener
- Able to consider others' personal experiences and look beyond their role as a health care professional
- Advocate on behalf of the collective voices and communities of the Greater Hamilton areas
- Non-judgmental, Positive attitude
- Desire to bring about meaningful change
- Ability to work collaboratively with people with lived experience, families, and health care providers



ENGAGEMENT PLANNING PROCESS



The GHHN Engagement Planning Process provides a clear outline of how engagement initiatives will be developed, implemented, and evaluated.

Regardless of the level of community engagement that occurs, the GHHN's approach to community engagement will seek to follow the GHHN Engagement Planning Process.



ENGAGEMENT PLANNING PROCESS

- 1. Scope and define the engagement project- determine what information is needed to start the project and develop a clear definition of the project.
- 2. Assess the level of engagement- determine what level (inform, consult, involve collaborate, empower) of engagement the project will require.
- 3. Identify the stakeholders- determine who needs to be involved in the project.
- 4. Determine the engagement method(s)- determine what engagement methods will be needed (Patient, Family, Care Partner Leadership Network, the Network Model, Patient Pool, online engagement) and the type of strategies that will best support the project (focus group, interviews, surveys, etc).
- 5. Identify needed resources- what personnel, fiscal and community resources are needed to support this project.
- 6. Prepare a Principles-based Engagement Action Plan- a concrete work plan that outlines measurable inputs, activities, and timelines and is used to support the implementation process.
- 7. Engage- begin implementation of actions and strategies.
- 8. Analyze and make recommendations/decisions- summarize the work done and develop recommendations, decisions, and next steps.
- 9. Evaluate and Monitor- develop tools and key performance indicators to measure, track and evaluate engagement.
- 10. Report Back- hold a follow-up session with all individuals involved in the engagement process to share findings, request feedback, and provide next steps.

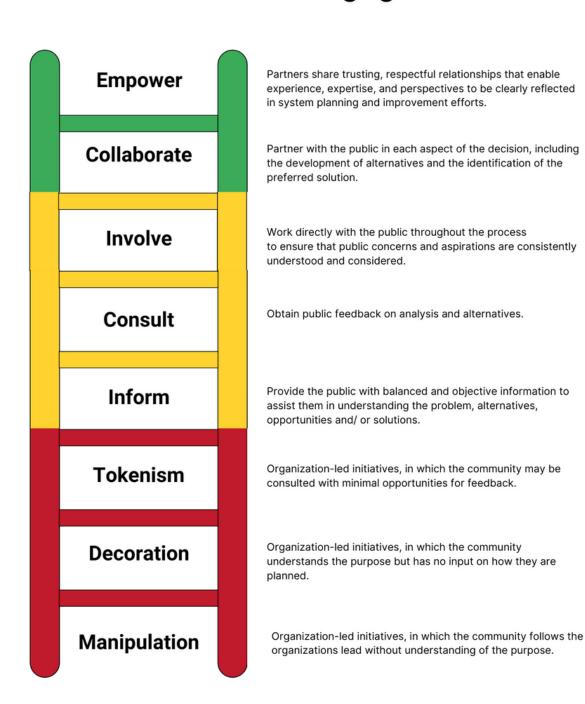


REFERENCES

- 1.IAP2. Public Participation Pillars: IAP2 Spectrum of Public Participation. Retrieved July 7, 2021, from https://cdn.ymaws.com/www.iap2.org/resource/resmgr/Communication s/A3_P2_Pillars_brochure.pdf
- 2. Int J Environ Res Public Health. 2018 Jun; 15(6): 1182. Published online 2018 Jun 5. doi: 10.3390/ijerph15061182
- 3. Hart, R. (1992). Children's Participation from Tokenism to Citizenship. Florence: UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre
- 4. Health Quality Ontario. (n.d.) Ontario's Patient Engagement Framework: Creating a strong culture of patient engagement to support high quality health care. Retrieved March 12, 2021, from https://www.hqontario.ca/Portals/0/documents/pe/ontario-patient-engagement-framework-en.pdf
- 5. Ontario Centre of Excellence for Child and Youth Mental Health (March 2021). Quality standard for family engagement. Ottawa, ON. Available online: www.cymh.ca/fe_standard
- 6. Principles of Community Engagement: First Edition." Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: CDC/ATSDR Committee on Community Engagement, 1997.

APPENDIX 1

Ladder of Engagement







greaterhamiltonhealthnetwork.ca



info@ghhn.ca



@greaterhamiltonhealthnetwork



@greaterhamiltonhealthnetwork



@GHHN_TheNetwork



https://www.linkedin.com/comp any/greater-hamiltonhealthnetwork