Hamilton Health Team plans shaped by patients and local leaders

On October 9, 2019, the Hamilton Health Team (HHT) reached an important milestone toward becoming a designated Ontario Health Team with the submission of its full application to the Ministry of Health. More than 200 leaders, community members, patients and physicians were engaged in the development of the proposal through working groups, a series of local workshops, and stakeholder presentations.

The HHT is co-chaired by two patient representatives, helping to ensure that patients and families remain at the forefront. Fifteen patient, family and caregiver participants were engaged in the workshop series and a patient representative is a member of each working group. A video profiling the HHT’s focus on patient engagement has been created. The model of patients-as-partners is embedded in the future design of the HHT.

Primary care engagement is a key focus for the HHT. The two largest Family Health Teams (FHTs) in Hamilton (McMaster FHT and Hamilton FHT) have been involved in the development of the plan and will continue to support collaboration by physicians and providers within their teams.

Six working groups focused on development of the proposal:

- Child and Youth Mental Health and Addictions
- Adult Mental Health and Addictions
- Older Adults with Multiple Chronic Conditions
- Home and Community Care
- Digital Health
- Governance

The HHT looks forward to continuing to work together on these important priorities and to engaging with the Ministry of Health regarding next steps.