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For Immediate Release:

Mississauga, Ontario.....

Accreditation Resources for Community and Home Care Agencies

The Mississauga Halton LHIN is the first LHIN in Ontario to require that organizations involved in caring for seniors and other populations in our community be accredited. When asked why the LHIN has moved to mandate accreditation, John Magill, Board Chair, Mississauga Halton LHIN stated that the government of Ontario is looking to ensure effective use of resources and that the LHIN is looking for “greater and more uptake of best practices”.

In order to facilitate knowledge exchange on the topic, The Metamorphosis Network, in partnership with the Ontario Community Support Association and Seniors Health Research Transfer Network organized an information session specifically designed for the needs of home and community care agencies. This session was videotaped and is now on-line at http://www.ocsa.on.ca/video/video_download.html

Over 100 community support and mental health & addiction health service providers, and governance board members participated in the session. 92% of the respondents of the evaluation form stated that this session met or exceeded their expectations. Stated benefits of participating included - being able to compare the different accreditation bodies – and hearing from all four in one session was seen as a very efficient use of time.

The new on-line resource includes videos and presentation slides. Raymond Applebaum, C.E.O., Peel Senior Link and founder, Metamorphosis Network and Catherine Brookman Co-Chair of SHRTN moderated this event which featured guest speakers John Magill, Board Chair, Mississauga Halton LHIN and Dr. Ben Chan, C.E.O., Ontario Health Quality Council, with presentations by CARF, COHI, Accreditation Canada, and ISO (slide decks are integrated within the video site). As well, a panel of health service providers spoke about their experience with each of the four respective accreditation bodies.

“We encourage all Health Service Provider staff and governance board members to view the on-line videos on accreditation” stated Raymond Applebaum. “ As highlighted by Dr. Ben Chan, accreditation represents one element in achieving performance improvement; however, in combination we can clearly achieve improved results” concluded Catherine Brookman.

Subsequent to the June 5th session, a meeting has been facilitated with the Mississauga Halton LHIN senior staff to explore short and long-term assistance for community support and mental health & addiction health service providers in this process. As well, the event sponsor and partners plan to meet with accreditation bodies based on agency choice to discuss timelines, support, and options for introducing multiple providers within negotiated timelines and a phased approach in the MH LHIN, with the potential for provincial scope.

Earlier this year, Community Care Access Centres (CCAC’s) introduced a 5 year accreditation requirement for all contracted Health Service Providers. It is expected that over time, all Local Health Integration Networks (LHINs) will introduce accreditation as an accountability requirement. Therefore, the accreditation knowledge transfer event and support for HSPs to achieve accreditation and performance improvement for clients and caregivers was organized.

- 30 -

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