

## News Release

On behalf of the board of directors of St. Francis Memorial Hospital (SFMH), Chair Jasna Boyd is pleased to announce a successful new integration initiative supporting the delivery of community health care services.

On November 1, Rainbow Valley Community Health Centre Point of Access (Rainbow Valley) located in Killaloe became fully integrated with SFMH. The integration between Rainbow Valley and SFMH is the first full integration of a Community Health Centre (CHC) with a hospital in the province. This integration will provide sustainability for Rainbow Valley improving care and services for members of local communities.

In early 2011, discussions began around the potential for a voluntary integration between Lanark Health Community Services (LHCS) and SFMH with respect to Rainbow Valley. This initiative received the full support of the Madawaska Communities Circle of Health (MCCHC). MCCHC is comprised of representatives from all funded health service providers in the Madawaska Valley funded by the Champlain Local Health Integration Network (LHIN) as well as other partners including Renfrew County Paramedic Service, Renfrew County Public Health Unit, Renfrew County Mental Health & Addictions and local primary care physicians. The goals of the MCCHC are rooted in the key concepts for an integrated health system as put forward by the LHIN in “Rethinking Health Care for the 21st Century.”

“We are very excited to begin this new partnership and we would like to acknowledge the leadership of LHCS, the Rainbow Valley board and the MCCHC for their support of this initiative,” noted Randy Penney, CEO of SFMH. “One of the hospitals longstanding goals over the years has been to drive integration and leverage the infrastructure within the hospital. From the partnership with the Renfrew Victoria Hospital to the establishment of the primary health centre and relationships with family physicians. This is another milestone achievement of driving integration with a focus on what’s best for the patient.”

“We are optimistic that this will bring renewed strength and vigour to Rainbow Valley in terms of personnel and programming” said Tony Pearson, Rainbow Valley Board Chair. “We, in the Rainbow Valley community, have stressed the importance of maintaining the community health centre model of care and St. Francis is committed to operating under the CHC model.”

This initiative supports system integration through shared local governance, and administrative functions; optimization of current resources in both sites and building capacity within local community and health service partnerships. All stakeholders remained focused on the five service areas identified in the provincial CHC Model of Care throughout the planning process. The five areas are primary care, illness prevention, health promotion, community capacity

building and service integration (AOHC, 2009).

In 2004, the MOHLTC announced that Rainbow Valley would be funded as a 'point of access' under the management of the Lanark Health and Community Services (LHCS). At that time, recognition was given to the potential long-term challenges that this expansion could pose for LHCS given the geographic distances involved. For this reason, the expansion was seen to be a temporary solution responding to the immediate need to expand primary health care in Renfrew County.

As John Jordan, Executive Director of Lanark Health and Community Services noted, "We fully support the transfer of RVCHC to the St. Francis Memorial Hospital and believe that this integration will increase the capacity for local partnership development, community engagement and better alignment of services for clients. We're proud of the many accomplishments we've had in bringing primary health care and health promotion services to Killaloe and surrounding area, and we're thankful for the commitment of our staff who have provided such excellent service and commitment to the local community."

Jeremy Stevenson, Chief Operating Officer at SFMH noted that the partnership has already been successful with the hospital being able to recruit a physician and temporary nurse practitioner on a part-time basis to work onsite at Rainbow Valley. Continual recruitment strategies are in place to hire a full time, permanent Nurse Practitioner. "Both the physician and nurse practitioner have already begun to see patients and we anticipate that services will continue to expand to reflect the available staffing resources and community need."

For further details on how to make an appointment, please call the Rainbow Valley CHC office at 613-757-0004.

For more information about the Rainbow Valley integration with SFMH, please contact Randy Penney, President & CEO, Renfrew Victoria Hospital & St. Francis Memorial Hospital, Telephone: 613-432-4851 ext 260  
Fax: 613-432-0711.