

Community Meeting re: former Bethesda Centre
Tuesday, June 17, 2014 6:30 pm – London Children’s Museum
Speaking Remarks for Murray Glendining, President and CEO, LHSC

Good evening everyone and thank you for joining us tonight. I hope that we are able to answer any questions or concerns you may have and that this is just the beginning of an on-going dialogue.

I want to acknowledge that, despite our best intentions, the first communication of our plans for the facility certainly did not go as we had hoped. We were in a difficult position, because at the time that the sale was to close on May 16], we had not finalized how we would utilize the entire facility and the only program formally approved was Adult Eating Disorders.

We felt it was important that you heard about the purchase from us and that we share what we could at that time, and the letter we sent reflected that. Unfortunately, when media picked up that other programs were being considered for the facility, we advised that no final decisions had yet been made and that our intent was to finalize our plan soon and then meet with the community to discuss it. It is very disappointing that they chose to characterize the situation as they did.

Regardless, we are sorry that the communication of this did not go more smoothly, and I want to give you assurance that we want to be open with you and be good neighbours in your community.

I would now like to provide a brief overview of what led to our purchase of the former Bethesda facility. I’m sure many of you know that Ontario’s health-care system is in the midst of a sweeping transformation. LHSC supports the need for changes to our health system to ensure it is better for patients and sustainable for the next generations. An important part of the work we are

doing to help drive system change is working with key health and community partners to develop new, more effective and efficient ways to deliver services.

One way to do this is to move services currently provided in the hospital setting into to the community, where that is appropriate, and where it better serves patient needs and that is what we are doing here.

The former Bethesda centre will become home to two outpatient mental health programs. First, as I mentioned, is the Adult Eating Disorders Service. This is already a community-based program, provided through a strong partnership between LHSC and the Canadian Mental Health Association Middlesex. The benefit here is simply the ability co-locate all aspects of the program, which are currently delivered in two separate community locations.

The centre will also be home to LHSC's PEPP program (which stands for Prevention and Early Intervention Program for Psychoses). The program is dedicated to the assessment and treatment of individuals – often youth – who are experiencing their first episode of psychosis.

Finally the centre will have 8, independent-living, residential apartments for youth and young adults who are transitioning back to the community from the care environment. These units will be operated by CMHA Middlesex and Don will provide more details in a moment.

This decision to move both of these programs results from the success of several similar community-based programs, which have clearly demonstrated that the best clinical outcomes for patients occur when the services are delivered in a community setting. Sandy will share more information in a few minutes about both the Adult Eating Disorders Service and the PEPP program.

Finally, our move to the community does require some facility changes that you will notice. We will be creating more parking spaces for clients and staff and we some minor interior renovations as well. Our goal is to achieve these changes in

as pleasing a manner as possible and Dipesh will review more about this in a few minutes. I would also like to note that we embrace the idea of this facility being an integral part of your community and would be pleased to share the property with the community through the establishment of a community garden and by providing a community-use meeting room.

Let me close by once again thanking you for today's meeting and for the note of welcome we received from the association in May. We are delighted to be moving into the Riverforks Neighbourhood and look forward to working with you. I will now ask Don Seymour from CMHA Middlesex to say a few words.