

Continuing Care in Alberta: Regional Health Authority and Operator Discussion Session

Calgary Health Region

Date: July 13, 2005

Location: Calgary

Attendees: Calgary Health Region, Triple A Living Community, Foothills Foundation, Bethany Care Society, Town of Okotoks, Carewest, Father Lacombe Care Centre, Brenda Strafford Foundation, Manor Village Life Centres, Mosquito Creek Foundation, Intercare, Chartwell Seniors Housing, MCF Housing for Seniors

Key Themes:

- Roles and responsibilities need to be clearly defined in standards.
- Clearly defining who does what, including the ministries, regional health authorities, long-term care operators, residents, and their families will help make the systems more similar across the health regions.
- It is good the standards focus on the individual resident.
- Long-term care in rural areas often has different challenges than in urban areas.
- Residents are having increased care needs at a time when there is less professional staff.
- Communication between care givers, care planners, families, and residents is crucial.
- Standards should be understandable, measurable and consistent across the province.
- Funding differs in each health region.
- Increased funding is important to making the new standards work.
- Give residents the option of keeping their current doctor or using their facility's doctor.
- Support doctors and other care givers when they have difficult decisions to make.
- The needs of younger people in long-term care should be addressed by the standards.
- Concern for safety should extend to staff and protect them from abuse by residents' families.

The MLA Task Force also visited with residents and families at Southwood Care Centre and Carewest Sarcee.