

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

Chinook Health Region

Date: July 14, 2005

Location: Lethbridge

Attendees: Chinook Health Region, St. Michael's Continuing Care Centre, Green Acres Foundation, Chantelle Management, Edith Cavell Care Centre, Pincher Creek Foundation, Chinook Foundation, Good Samaritan Society

Key Themes:

- Standards provide more direction on the care to be given to residents and are flexible to meet resident care needs.
- Standards will help improve health and housing services.
- Standards should apply consistently to everyone.
- Make sure standards can be revised as new ideas, medical tools, and types of care are developed.
- Balance quality of care with quality of life.
- Younger people could benefit from living in a long-term care facility that is focused on caring for younger people.
- Use incentives to get facilities to provide the care and services they should be providing.
- Keep people in their communities when they need care.
- Important for people to plan how they want to be cared for before they get too sick.
- Affordability concerns for people who could live in supportive living instead of long-term care.
- Legislation needs to catch up to the standards, and definitions of terms should be consistent.
- There are not enough geriatric doctors.
- People should have the choice of keeping their current doctor when they move into long-term care.
- The system cannot be all things to all people.
- Along with the new standards, provide funding for staff, education and training, and care management tools.
- Give residents choices, while ensuring they are living in the right kind of facility and receiving the right kind of care.

The MLA Task Force also visited with residents and families at Piyami Place in Picture Butte and at Edith Cavell and St. Michael's Care Centre in Lethbridge.