

April 26, 2006

MCGUINITY GOVERNMENT ESTABLISHES METHADONE TASK FORCE

As recommended by a Coroner's inquest, the McGuinty government is establishing an external task force to provide advice on how to improve methadone maintenance treatment in Ontario.

Terms of Reference

The Methadone Maintenance Treatment Practices Task Force will examine:

1. Access to methadone and regulations surrounding treatment programs. The task force will examine issues associated with meeting the needs of people requiring methadone treatment.
2. Best practices and training of health care professionals. Guidelines and training are already in place for physician and pharmacist practice in this area. The task force will provide advice on the need to update these guidelines and training as well as the guidelines and training needs of other professionals involved in methadone maintenance treatment.
3. Fair payment models. The task force will provide advice on appropriate payment models for physicians prescribing methadone and pharmacists/physicians for dispensing/administering methadone.
4. Quality assurance and assessment of treatment programs. The task force will look at quality assurance models, content and enforceability.
5. Community engagement in establishing or relocating clinics. The task force will provide advice on how to establish effective community engagement processes when establishing or relocating clinics.

The task force's target is to report to the government by the end of the year.

Membership

Anton Hart, publisher of Longwoods Publishing Corporation, is chairing the task force. The other task force members are:

- Larry Boggio, Boggio Pharmacy Ltd.
- Carole Bouchard, Director of Office of Controlled Substances, Health Canada
- Anne Coghlan, Executive Director, College of Nurses of Ontario
- Dr. Robert Cushman, CEO, Champlain Local Health Integration Network
- Gail Czukar, Executive Vice-President, Policy and Planning, General Counsel, Centre for Addiction and Mental Health
- Chantal Desgranges, Community Representative
- Morris Field, Consumer Representative
- Dr. Rocco Gerace, Registrar, College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario
- Carrie Hayward, Director, Mental Health and Addictions Branch, Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care
- Sarah Hutchison, Director of Professional Services, Ontario Medical Association
- Elizabeth Larocque, Program Manager, Community Alcohol/Drug Assessment Program, Algoma Health

Unit

- Dennis Long, Executive Director, Breakaway
- Beth McCracken, Deputy Executive Director, Registered Practical Nurses Association of Ontario
- Dr. Barry McLellan, Chief Coroner, Coroner's Office of Ontario
- Dr. Christopher Sankey, Satellite, Toronto
- Christine Ling, Ontario Pharmacists' Association
- Sue Starling, Registered Nurses Association of Ontario
- Jean Trimnell, CEO, North Simcoe Muskoka Local Health Integration Network
- Deana Williams, Registrar, Ontario College of Pharmacists

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