



Our bold vision for the future is beginning to emerge. After 10 months of work, our biggest planning project in decades – *Our Healthy Future* – is gaining momentum as we head into the home stretch.

Town hall meetings, community engagement, focus groups and more will keep the Hamilton Health Sciences calendar very busy over the winter. We have a deadline of June 2016 to provide the Board of Directors with a 20-year vision for our facilities and services. This newsletter will be published frequently over the next few months to continue updating the HHS family and partners on our progress.

More than 1,000 people have contributed to the *Our Healthy Future* planning process – staff, physicians, the general public, community partners and others. To start the new year, we are catching up on two important planning elements that took place in the last few months – **staff engagement** and the **Future State Summit**.

HHS Conversations about *Our Healthy Future*

What staff had to say

Conversations with HHS staff about *Our Healthy Future* took place in late summer 2015, as the Patient-Centred Working Groups (PCWGs) neared the completion of their work. Draft recommendations from the working groups were shared in meetings with front line staff across all HHS sites. Elements that participants found exciting included a greater focus on:

- ▶ **Patient-centred care and patient education**
- ▶ **Early intervention strategies**
- ▶ **Research leadership**
- ▶ **Partnerships with other health providers**
- ▶ **Integration within the health system**
- ▶ **The right patient receiving the right service**

Participants wanted to see more focus on:

- ▶ **Resources for conducting research**
- ▶ **Solving or reducing ALC (alternate level of care) dilemma**
- ▶ **Support for families and patients when making end-of-life decisions**
- ▶ **Discharge communication and follow-up plans**

Future State Summit

Almost 100 staff and community partners gathered for an event called “The Future State Summit” in mid-October. This milestone marked the completion of detailed research and analysis conducted by approximately 200 HHS staff and physicians, along with representatives from other healthcare providers, who served on five Patient-Centred Working Groups (PCWGs).

The summit was the first opportunity for all members of the PCWGs to gather and present their recommendations to each other and confirm seven themes that emerged from their work:

- 1 Empower patients and families**
- 2 Re-imagine partnerships with other healthcare providers**
- 3 Integrate IT systems**
- 4 Invigorate the innovative spirit at HHS**
- 5 Apply global research locally**
- 6 Harness the power and promise of education**
- 7 Be a magnet organization for health care’s best and brightest**

The Future State Summit clarified that HHS needs to build new relationships with patients and the community – relationships based on respect, integration and innovation. The summit also recognized that now is the time to take a population health-based approach to planning – one that addresses the special needs of the most vulnerable people in our community.

A population health approach is one that aims to reduce hospital admissions by providing more proactive and preventive health services in the community. This approach would require more collaboration with HHS’ community partners.

The progress made at the Future State Summit is providing a valuable framework for the consultation that continues as ***Our Healthy Future*** planning progresses.

