



Long-Term Care Homes Committee Report - for Information

Title: Long Term Care Update Report - January, February and March 2024
From: Megan Garland, Director of Long-Term Care and Senior Services
Date: April 4, 2024

Report Purpose:

This report is for information.

Report Summary:

This is the report for January, February and March 2024 that was sent to the Long-Term Care Homes Committee of Management. All members of the County Council are members of the committee and are also the representatives of, and act on behalf of, Bruce County, which is the Licensee for both Brucelea Haven and Gateway Haven.

Background:

Long-Term Care Services - Regulatory Compliance:

Both Bruce County long-term care homes, Brucelea Haven and Gateway Haven, remain in compliance with the LTCHA and associated regulations. The homes conduct regular audits. Administrators, management teams and the Director of Long-Term Care, along with Senior Services continue to monitor the status of the homes, including ensuring that the RAI-MDS submissions are completed within timelines.

Current Census (as of March 26, 2024)

BLH: 144
GWH: 100

Occupancy (as of March 26, 2024)

BLH: 99.04 %
GWH: 99.05 %

Site Visits, Follow Up Inspections and Opportunities for Partnership:

MINISTRY OF LONG-TERM CARE:

Brucelea Haven:

In the last report, we shared that an inspection occurred from November 16, 2023, to November 23, 2023 to follow up on a compliance order and critical incidents. The home has since received the report and was in receipt of 7 written notifications and 1 compliance order.

The compliance order was related to plan of care, specifically our process in engaging the physician and interdisciplinary care team in the treatment of a resident's change in condition. The home was required to comply with the order by January 30, 2024.

The Ministry of Health returned for an investigation from February 6, 2024, until February 13, 2024 and found the home was now in compliance of the previous order. They also conducted a subsequent inspection related to critical incidents. The home was issued 2 written notifications related to hand hygiene and masking.

The report can be found at www.publicreporting.LTC.net

Gateway Haven:

No inspection occurred during this period.

The home is in receipt of update reports resulting from the decision of the Health Services Appeal Board and the reports have been shared with Resident/Family Council as required.

Ministry of Long-Term Care Announcement/Directives:

COVID 19 Directives- Universal masking:

Based on the advice of the Chief Medical Officer of Health, on March 4, 2024, the MLTC released a memo to homes removing the universal masking requirement. Masking in non-outbreak situations continues to be:

- Required for staff, based on a point-of-care risk assessment before every resident interaction, and based on the return-to-work protocols.
- Staff may consider wearing a mask during prolonged direct resident care defined as one-on-one within 2 metres of an individual for fifteen minutes or longer; and
- Recommended for visitors and caregivers, but not required.

Next Phase PSW Investment Program

In January 2024, the Ministry of Long-Term Care created a new program called “Next Phase PSW Investments” in response to the significant Personal Support Worker staffing challenges in long-term care and Home and Community Care.

The Program provides the following benefits to long-term care homes;

- Clinical stipends of up to \$5,440.50 (or \$17.55 per hour) for Eligible PSW students who are completing a placement.
- New PSW recruitment incentives, offering Eligible PSWs a \$10,000 incentive in exchange for a one-year commitment.
- PSW relocation incentives, offering \$10,000 to support relocation costs for those Eligible PSWs who accept a job located in an eligible rural, remote, or Northern community.

Brucelea Haven and Gateway Haven have received the funding agreement from Ontario Health in March and are anticipating rolling out these new initiatives in April.

Ministry Releases Phase 4 FLTCA Regulations

The Ministry of Long-Term Care posted publicly their proposed Phase 4 regulations under the *Fixing Long-Term Care Act, 2021* in February 2024. If passed, changes would come into effect May 1, 2024.

Key proposed changes include;

Staffing

- Amend staffing qualifications for the following roles;
 - Administrator
 - Therapy Services Staff
 - Designated Lead for the Restorative Care Program
 - Designated Lead for Volunteer Program
- Amendments that provide for how nursing student externs could carry out certain responsibilities in long-term care homes, including administering drugs and other potential functions.
- Permitting Registered Practical Nurses to complete RAI-MDS assessments, particularly in instances where a resident is seeking a transfer to their preferred long-term care home, to support regulated health professionals to work to their full scope of practice in long-term care homes.

Pandemic Recovery and Stabilization

- Broaden provisions related to the pandemic framework to provide greater clarity to licensees on requirements in emergency situations and de-escalation to non-emergency situations.
- A proposed mechanism to trigger the potential use of these provisions in the future such as possible time-limited direction from the Minister. The proposal would also require that a home's Residents' Council and Family Council be involved in the review of existing visitor policies and any future revisions.

Clarifying and Technical Amendments

- Further clarifications related to air conditioning obligations in limited circumstances in which a licensee would not have to install a portable or window air conditioning unit and implement the heat-related illness prevention and management plan, and consistency in language between the air conditioning and air temperature requirements.

Local Priority Funding

In January 2024, the Ministry of Long-Term Care announced additional funding for local priorities funding available to long-term care homes. The funding is provided to help long-term care homes purchase specialized equipment and train staff to provide more specialized care, so that more homes can admit residents who have complex needs but no longer require acute care in hospitals. The 2023/24 funding has been allocated towards the purchase of Bladder scanners, training for complex wound care and Intravenous training.

Staffing

The Student Clinical Placement position has been in place for over 3 months and has had great success with providing staff with preceptor training for mentoring new students and recruiting clinical placement and co-op students.

Twelve staff members have completed the preceptor training course in preparation of mentoring incoming students. The training is provided by Ontario Centre for learning, Research and Innovation in Long-Term Care.

There are currently 5 PSW students completing their clinical placements with us from Georgian College and Conestoga College.

We have welcomed a total of 5 co-op students at our 2 long-term care facilities. Two students from Peninsula Shores are placed in maintenance and Recreation and Leisure at Gateway. Three students from Sacred Heart Secondary School are placed in Healthcare and Recreation and Leisure at Brucelea Haven.

Family and Residents Councils:

Family and Resident Councils are active in both homes (total of 4 councils). These councils provide an opportunity for both family and residents to have direct discussions with each other and our staff as they may wish. Attendance by LTC staff at these meetings is at the request of the Council. The Administrator is generally asked to attend all meetings of both groups and senior staff (Nursing, Environmental) also receive invitations to attend.

Both homes host Family and Friends Town Halls, which are well attended.

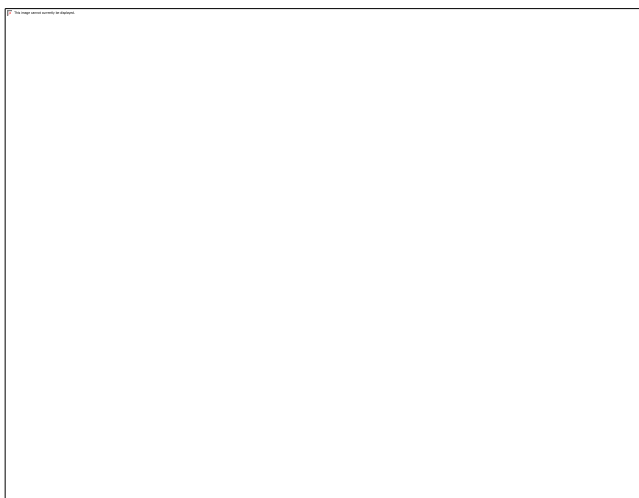
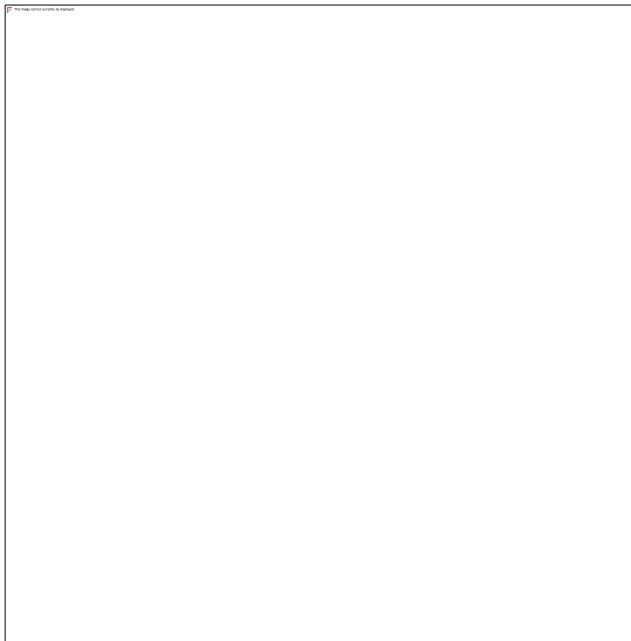
Monthly Newsletter for Family, Friends, Residents and Staff:

Attached is January, February, and March 2024 monthly newsletter for families, friends, residents, and staff from both homes. The newsletters have been created with the aim of

fostering a stronger sense of community and communication among our residents and their families. It will serve as a platform for sharing important updates, stories, events, and information about life in the homes. With the introduction of the monthly newsletter, we will discontinue the Resident Engagement section within the report. The newsletters will now serve as the platform for showcasing various areas of engagement within the homes.

Physical Plant and Equipment (planned and unplanned):

In February, Gateway Haven began the process of replacing the servery for one floor. The work included a complete overhaul including flooring, counters, cupboards, equipment, light and wall covering. The work was completed in March and the other servery replacement will commence in April.





Financial/Staffing/Legal/IT Considerations:

No additional considerations currently.

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There are no financial, staffing, legal or IT considerations associated with this report.

Interdepartmental Consultation:

No interdepartmental consultations were undertaken for this report.

Link to Strategic Goals and Objectives:

Community and Partnerships - Build a strong and inclusive community

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Departmental Approval:

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Approved for submission:

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