



MEDIA RELEASE

March 28, 2018

CPDMH INVITES PATIENTS AND FAMILY MEMBERS TO JOIN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Carleton Place & District Memorial Hospital's (CPDMH) Patient and Family Advisory Committee (PFAC) is looking for new community members to get involved.

"We know that the patient's voice is the most important one," explains Rachel de Kemp, Chief Nursing Executive. "They are a vital part of the health care team and we want to hear from them."

Advisors reflect on their own experiences, or those of their family members, to offer meaningful input on all aspects of care. The committee acts in an advisory capacity to ensure the patient and family voice is integrated in the planning, delivery and evaluation of health services. Advisors make a difference by sharing their ideas and experiences.

Dawn Fortin is the new PFAC Chair at CPDMH. Thank you to outgoing Chair Peter Litster for his leadership. Dawn moved to the area 10 years ago and says she wants to be involved in her community and make a difference. "It is so interesting and it's amazing how many good ideas emerge when we brainstorm together. And we learn as well."

Dawn says the committee has worked on many projects from improved signage to a new Family Presence policy to replace the traditional visiting hours. "Some of us have also been part of the planning of the new Emergency Department, sitting on focus groups to provide a patient perspective. And we are even looking at a pet visitation policy."

Advisors do not need special qualifications. Any required training will be provided. The committee meets a minimum of four times per year.

Interested community members are invited to complete an application form, found on the main page of the CPDMH website at www.cpdmh.ca. They may also contact Angie Kelly at 613-257-2200 ext. 829 or akelly@carletonplacehosp.com for more information.

"The ideas that our patients and family members provide help to shape the care that is delivered at CPDMH," adds Rachel de Kemp. "The Patient and Family Advisory Committee is a key part of our quality and safety program – and another way we are connecting with our local communities."

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