

Long Term Care Strategy Update December 2007

The Long Term Care Strategy supports “Aging in Place”, that intends to preserve the ability of Manitobans to remain in their communities for as long as possible. The strategy involves collaboration between the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority, Manitoba Health and Healthy Living, Manitoba Family Services and Housing, and other key stakeholders.

Since the last update much has happened. Activities involved educating health care providers about options for their patients and clients who need long term living support, as well as new services being added.

Education and Stakeholder sessions

Consultation and education are necessary to help improve health care providers and the public’s awareness of new long term living options.

Sessions have been held for Home Care staff, hospital staff, the WRHA Board of Directors, and Seniors Councils within Winnipeg. Meetings with community case coordinators and team managers have helped in beginning to identify potential candidates for supportive housing.

Reference material explaining the housing options is being created, and a public awareness campaign is planned. As well, information continues to be added to the WRHA web site, including a Housing Glossary of Terms.

Program and Service improvements

The River Park Gardens, an 80 bed Personal Care Home, opened in October 2007 and is now fully occupied.

Planning and development of the space and service components for the Program for the Integrated Management of the Elderly (PRIME) is underway. The Program will provide an “umbrella” of health care services for elderly living in the community, with the intention of delaying or avoiding admission to hospital or long term care. Construction of PRIME is slated to begin in December 2007 with an opening of the service in about June 2008. This program will service approximately 90 seniors and will take pressure off family physicians, emergency departments and personal care homes by providing an integrated service to allow them to stay home longer.

Several sites and programs have added spaces over the last few months. They include:

- Housing for Assisted Living (HAL) that added five additional suites at 340 Princess, bringing the total to 12 suites for young people with disabilities.
- Ten spaces for ventilator dependent individuals are being added at 1010 Sinclair. Hiring of the staff has started with a staged opening starting in December.
- Manitoba Housing and Renewal Corporation (MHRC) has provided an additional 25 rental subsidies for supportive housing, bringing the total to 35 subsidies. This makes supportive housing more affordable for low-income individuals who qualify for the supplement.
- The WRHA expects that the Supports to Seniors in Group Living (SSGL) model will be expanded to include 5 more seniors' apartment blocks during the winter of 2007. This means that more seniors will have access to additional supports to keep them healthy and living in the community.

What is next for Winter 2007/Spring 2008

In order to help people find the best living arrangements to meet their needs, health care providers must have a clear understanding of clients' needs and health care use. The WRHA is working with the Centre on Aging to look at Home Care and Long Term Care data that will help direct individuals to the right housing and service option. The WRHA will also build on the use of the regional Bed Utilization Management (UM) Tool to identify why people may be waiting in hospital, and in particular what housing or care option they might be waiting for.

Several other projects related to housing and long term care spaces are underway.

Watch for future updates, and for more information on the Long Term Care Strategy go to:

<http://www.wrha.mb.ca/ltc/strategy.php>