

Community Partners Wanted: Healthy Aging

The Algoma Ontario Health Team (AOHT) is a team of local health professionals, organizations, and community members working together to improve the health system in Algoma. We want to create a network where patients will have access to the right care, right team, and right care setting when they need it.

As part of our commitment to meaningful partnership with community members, we are currently recruiting two volunteer community partners to join our Healthy Aging Project. Community partners can be patients, clients, families, caregivers, people with lived experience, and other citizens who interact with health and social services. The AOHT Healthy Aging Working Group leads projects designed to improve care for Algoma's older adults. Current focuses include post-fall care, frailty identification in primary care, and COVID-19 pandemic recovery for older adults and their caregivers.

The primary purpose of this role is to incorporate the expertise of the community members our health system serves in AOHT work. Community partners on working groups will actively partner with planning leads, clinicians, and other working group members to co-design projects that aim to improve patient experiences and regional health services. **Please note that these positions are volunteer roles.**

Qualifications

- Adult 65+ OR current/previous caregiver or family member of an adult 65+
- Previous experience accessing health or social services
- A desire to help improve health and social services in Algoma

Roles and Responsibilities:

- Participate as an active member of the Healthy Aging Project and attend meetings regularly
- Tell your story and share your point of view
- Advocate for patient, family, and caregiver needs from a broad perspective
- Participate in the development of new processes, programs, and services
- Objectively listen to and appreciate the views of others
- Contribute ideas and suggestions that will enhance community involvement in health system planning and decision-making
- Promote improved collaboration and relationships between community members and staff

Partner Expectations:

- Commit to participating in healthy aging work for a period of 1 year (with possibility of extension)

- Attend meetings as required (currently virtual); the Healthy Aging Working Group currently meets bi-weekly for 1 hour (approximate 2-4 hour commitment per month)
- Read meeting materials in advance of the meeting and come to the meeting prepared to contribute and discuss agenda items
- Respect the collaborative process and understand that final decision-making related to care and process improvements is the responsibility of AOHT partner organizations
- Maintain confidentiality of patient and organizational sensitive material

Our Commitment: We Will

- Explain internal processes and terminology as needed for clarification and understanding
- Help orient you to virtual meeting software as needed
- Provide a safe space for you to contribute and be respected for your insight and suggestions
- Work with you to address any question or concerns related to involvement
- Provide initial orientation and training, as well as ongoing training (where required), to ensure you're well-equipped and comfortable to actively participate

Characteristics of a Successful Partner

- Respectful of others and their perspectives
- Comfortable speaking in a group and interacting with others
- Good listener
- Ability to use personal experience constructively
- Ability to see beyond own experience
- Ability to see the big picture
- Demonstrate a non-judgmental and positive attitude
- Work collaboratively with other partners and staff
- Desire to expand knowledge and skills
- Desire to participate in creating meaningful change
- Ability to maintain confidentiality of patient and organizational information

Application Process

Completed applications are due January 19, 2022. There are two ways to apply:

- Fill out the Community Partner Application Form and send to info@algomaht.ca
- Submit an online application

Following the closing date, we will contact potential candidates to participate in an informal interview process.

The Algoma OHT is committed to providing accessible and barrier-free engagement opportunities for partners from all backgrounds. Please forward accommodation requests, questions, or concerns to info@algomaht.ca.

Learn more about the Algoma OHT: www.algomaht.ca.