

# CHAMPLAIN REGIONAL GERIATRIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

## Revised Terms of Reference

Approved - April 20, 2007

**Purpose:** *To ensure that all seniors and their caregivers have equitable and timely access to high quality services and resources that are part of a coordinated system of care, designed to optimize their health and support their independence and quality of life. As a recognized leader and partner in a collaborative decision-making forum, the RGAC brings leaders of organizations and groups who are passionate about issues related to the care of seniors together, to provide a strong and clear voice on seniors' health issues across Champlain District.*

### **Objectives:**

- o Provide a forum for providers to make joint decisions required for the development and coordination of a network of seniors' health services, including matters related to clinical services, education, research and planning.
- o Identify significant issues related to the delivery & coordination of geriatric services, and develop annual and strategic plans to address them.
- o Disseminate information regarding seniors' health services across Champlain District services.
- o Promote liaison between geriatric medicine and geriatric psychiatry programs, and other programs serving the elderly.
- o Support & participate in relevant local planning initiatives related to the care of the elderly in Champlain District, in partnership with the Local Health Integration Network (LHIN). The RGAC will work in collaboration with the Champlain LHIN in developing a Statement of Relationship.

### **Membership:**

Membership will be composed of medical and/or administrative directors of organizations reflecting the continuum of seniors' health services, and which includes both geriatric medicine and geriatric psychiatry. Organizations with significant linkages will also be invited to participate.

### **Linkages:**

The Regional Geriatric Advisory Committee has been established as a joint decision-making body of providers of seniors' health services, including partners in the Regional Geriatric Program. However, major decisions likely to impact policy or funding would require ratification by the relevant partner organizations.

The Committee, as a coordinating body, is comprised primarily of providers within the network of geriatric services. The Council on Aging Ottawa-Carleton will therefore be requested to assume a primary role in facilitating the consumer input required for responsive decision-making.

A strong collaborative relationship will be maintained with the University of Ottawa, as well as other universities and colleges, regarding the education and research mission of the Regional Geriatric Program.

The Committee is committed to comprehensive local health system planning through the Champlain Local Health Integration Network. Liaison will be established with other relevant provider networks or alliances as appropriate, as well as the Ministry of Health with respect to provincial policy and priorities. These may include the Champlain Dementia Network, the Champlain Mental Health Network and le réseau des services de santé en français.

Linkages will also be maintained with the Public Health Departments and local community health centres, in recognition of their significant role in promoting the health and preventing disability of the elderly.