

Media Release

Home and Community Care Support Services Welcomes Newly Appointed Board Chair and Interim Chief Executive Officer

Joe Parker and Donna Cripps will lead Home and Community Care Support Services organizations.

Toronto, June 22, 2021 – Home and Community Care Support Services welcomes Joe Parker as the new Board Chair and Donna Cripps as the Interim Chief Executive Officer to lead Ontario's Home and Community Care Support Services organizations, effective July 1, 2021. These appointments will ensure strong leadership to support continuity of high-quality home care services and partnership in modernizing home and community care.

Home and Community Care Supports Services organizations are responsible for home care delivery, long-term care home placement and community referrals. They have a focused mandate to improve the delivery of home care as part of the government's plan to an integrated, connected health care system through [Ontario Health Teams](#).

"I am honoured to provide governance to this important step in integrating Ontario's health care system, while keeping a laser focus on stability of the home care and long-term care home placement services people rely on every single day," said Mr. Parker. "Our commitment is to ensure Ontarians receive these important services where and when they need them. At the same time, we will advance our goals of integrating and modernizing home care in partnership with Ontario Health and health and community service providers right across the province, ensuring that the patient is at the centre of everything we do."

"By working together as one with our 14 teams across the province, we will combine our knowledge, strength and expertise to continue to deliver high-quality home care services to Ontarians," said Donna Cripps. "Our home care staff are demonstrating incredible strength, resiliency and capacity throughout the pandemic in helping keep patients safe and healthy at home, an important contributor to ending hallway health care. Their expertise and ongoing work is valued and vital as we work in partnership to build an integrated health care system with care coordinated for patients and families."

A new, diverse and highly experienced board of directors will support a focused leadership team to govern and manage Home and Community Care Support Services. Remaining members of the Board of Directors will be confirmed in the weeks ahead.

"Home and community care plays a vital role in keeping people safe and healthy. Over the past year, we have seen how important these services are for people across the province," said Minister Christine Elliott, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health. "The strong leadership of Joe and Donna will ensure that as we continue to move forward with thoughtful, incremental changes to modernize home and community care, there will be no disruption to patient care. We will continue to work with Home and

Community Care Support Services and our health sector partners to build a better, connected health care system centred around the needs of patients.”

Planning for the eventual and carefully phased integration of home and community care services into Ontario Health Teams will involve engagement with system partners. At all times there will be continuity of care for patients and caregivers, who can continue to access home and community care services in the same way and using the same contacts.

QUICK FACTS

- On April 1, 2021, the 14 Local Health Integration Networks began operating under a new business name, Home and Community Care Support Services, to reflect a singular mandate to deliver home care and long-term care placement services and to provide referrals to community services.
- The Home and Community Care Support Services organizations are Crown agencies that serve over 685,000 patients per year. (Environmental Scan, 2019-22)
- This renewed governance for home care is part of the government’s plan to [modernize home and community care](#) as part of an integrated health care system providing coordinated care for patients through Ontario Health Teams. Ontario Health Teams will work together to understand a patient’s full health care history, directly connect them to the different types of care they need and help patients 24/7 in navigating the health care system.
- There are no changes to how patients and caregivers access home and community care services.
- For information and referrals related to home and community care and long-term care home placement, patients can continue to call 310-2222 (English) or 310-2272 (French), no area code is required.

BACKGROUND



JOE PARKER, Board Chair Designate, Home and Community Care Support Services

Joe Parker is a Partner with Four Corners Group, and owns Maple Tree Advisory Inc., a business consulting firm advising businesses on matters of strategy, governance, organization and performance improvement. He currently serves on the board of the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair, is Board Chair, Ontario Internal Audit, Community Services Sector Audit Committee, serves as a Member of the Board of Directors of Ontario Health (to June 30, 2021), and volunteers at the Institute for Health Policy, Management and Evaluation. Previously, he was a Partner in the financial advisory services practice at PricewaterhouseCoopers, and a financial executive at The Molson Companies. Joe’s community involvement has included Board Chair/Director at the Central Community Care Access Centre, Board Chair/Governor at Mohawk College in Hamilton, and a Board member at the Ontario Association of Community Care Access Centres. He holds a Bachelor of Commerce degree from McMaster University, is a CPA/CA, and an Institute Certified Director (ICD.d).



DONNA CRIPPS, Interim CEO, Home and Community Care Support Services

Donna Cripps is highly respected and accomplished health care leader. She has served as the Regional Lead for Ontario Health Central, CEO of Hamilton Niagara Haldimand Brant Local Health Integration Network, and CEO of St. Peter's Health System (Hamilton). Her expertise includes over 30 years of experience in planning, funding and integration of the health care system, management and delivery of home and community care, and hands-on clinical practice. She holds a Bachelor of Science (Physiotherapy) from the University of Toronto, an MBA (Masters in Business Administration) from Queen's University, and an Institute Chartered Director from McMaster University.

MEDIA CONTACT

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About Home and Community Care Support Services

Home and Community Care Support Services organizations (also known as Local Health Integration Networks) have a focused mandate to deliver local health care services such as home and community care and long-term care home placement. These agencies previously had additional responsibilities for local health system funding and management, but these functions were transferred to and assumed by Ontario Health on April 1, 2021.

Home and Community Care Support Services is dedicated to ensuring the ongoing delivery of local services while Ontario makes changes to improve the health care system to give patients better connected care with health care providers working as one coordinated team in Ontario Health Teams. Although these agencies are operating under new business names, services and contact information remain the same, including home and community care, long-term care home placement and help finding services and local doctors.