

About Giiwednong Health Link

Giiwednong Health Link (GHL) is comprised of fourteen First Nations communities on Manitoulin Island and the North Shore of Lake Huron. In partnership with the Government of Canada and strategically aligned with health services providers in the province of Ontario, GHL was conceived by the regional First Nations' leadership as a conduit through which eHealth initiatives such as Electronic Medical Records (EMR) could be implemented.



Governance Milestones:

In May 2017 the Board of Directors completed the development of the GHL Strategic Plan. This plan outlines GHL's goals and objectives for the next four years. The plan provides clear direction and support to the project management office (PMO) of GHL to carry out the work needed to provide tools and resources to the partnering Health Centres and Aboriginal Health organizations.

GHL held its first Annual General Membership meeting in June 2017. The meeting was held at the Manitoulin Island Conference Centre, with representatives of both Chief and Councils, and Health Directors/Managers from each Health Centre. The highlight of this meeting was the approval of the audited 2017 Financial Statements and the approval of By-Law # 2 which incorporated membership changes.



EMR Implementation Milestones:

In 2017 GHL successfully implemented 12 EMRs in various health centres utilizing the TELUS Health EMR software PS Suite. Each implementation included a series of: discovery; planning systems and set up; training; the EMR "Go Live" launch; and subsequent "Go-Live" training support sessions. The PMO office of GHL carried out this work starting with the Wikwemikong Health Centre in March 2017 and concluded with the Mississauga Health Centre in November 2017.

To mark the milestone in each Health Centre, an EMR "Go Live" launch is typically celebrated with gift presentations, speeches, drumming, a meal, refreshments and photos.

"With PS Suite EMR, we can enter a more permanent digital records format, and we can share it. Knowledge is power, and it is crucial that we have access not to just what you [the patient] are presenting now, but what you had throughout your lifetime."

DR. MICHAEL BEDARD,
ASSIGINACK FAMILY HEALTH TEAM



EMR Implementations Completed in 2017:

- Wiikwemkoong Unceded Territory - March 07, 2017
- Serpent River First Nation - April 28, 2017
- M'Chigeeng First Nation - June 06, 2017
- Atikameksheng Anishnawbek - June 27, 2017
- Sagamok Anishnawbek - July 25, 2017
- Mnaamodzawin Health Services - October 23, 2017
- Aundeck Omni Kaning First Nation - October 23, 2017
- Sheguiandah First Nation - October 23, 2017
- Whitefish River First Nation - October 23, 2017
- Zhiibaahaasing First Nation - October 23, 2017
- Sheshegwaning First Nation - October 23, 2017
- Mississauga First Nation - November 27, 2017

Operational Milestones:

The role of the GHL PMO is not only to implement EMRs but also to enhance, build and support digital health within the communities that GHL serves.

This work involved a variety of smaller projects and capacity building by GHL.

IN 2017 THE GHL PMO COMPLETED SEVERAL INITIATIVES:

- Data Sharing Agreement and facilitating integration between a Family Health Team and a First Nation Health centre
- Privacy training facilitation with Health Centre staff
- Development of Service Level Agreements
- Initiating the CBRT Customized EMR Reporting Functionality project development
- Partnered with a School Health Support Services Project
- Development and Approval of a Human Resources and Finance Policy
- Development and roll out of a Stakeholders' Management Plan
- Ongoing communications, engagement and partnership building with stakeholders
- Completion of GHL marketing and promotional tools, and building the GHL brand
- Completion of a Business Case for future GHL sustainability

Looking Forward

GHL recognizes that the achievement of the vision, mission, and long-term strategic goals will require a considerable effort and coordination amongst many strategic partners. Nonetheless, GHL remains confident that the identified short and mid-term objectives can be achieved as planned. In 2018 GHL intends to carry out additional EMR implementations and to continue to develop eHealth initiatives.

SOME NOTABLE ACTIVITIES AND PROJECTS:

- EMR Implementation at Thessalon First Nation on February 15, 2018
- EMR Implementation at Batchewana First Nation on February 26, 2018
- EMR Implementations beyond Manitoulin – North Shore area
- Activating the eHealth Advisory Team
- Rolling out the GHL Website and promotional video
- Developing and implementing CBRT Functionality within the PS Suite
- Improving EMR integrations towards One Client – One Record
- Strengthening eHealth partnerships

GHL has secured 2018-2019 funding from the First Nation and Inuit Health Branch (FNIHB) of the Department of Indigenous Services Canada. The continued support and commitment from FNIHB will mark the beginning of GHL's 3rd year of operations.

The Board of Directors and Project Management Office are looking forward to continuing to support the communities that are using the EMR and to build upon the solid eHealth foundation that has been developed.



FOR MORE INFORMATION

Giiwednong Health Link
1300 Highway 540 - Unit 3
Aundeck Omni Kaning, ON P0P 1K0
1 800 985 5713
giiwednonghealth.ca



GIIWEDNONG
HEALTH LINK



Government
of Canada

Gouvernement
du Canada