

Media Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MOVING FORWARD WITH CEISS SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

(Thunder Bay, ON May 25, 2010) On May 25, 2010, St. Joseph's Care Group (SJCG) in partnership with the North West Community Care Access Centre (NWCCAC) and North West Local Health Integration Network (NWLHIN) announced the creation of 75 Transitional Supportive Housing Units in Thunder Bay for Seniors.

The Construction of the Centre of Excellence for Integrated Seniors' Services (CEISS) is currently underway with the 132 Supportive Housing Apartments scheduled to be completed by late Fall 2011. As a result of the urgent need for supportive housing in the community, NWCCAC, NWLHIN and SJCG have created a partnership to make 75 of the 132 CEISS Supportive Housing Apartments available temporarily at McKellar Place.

Tracy Buckler, President & CEO, SJCG says "St. Joseph's Care Group is committed to responding to the unmet needs of our region as we move forward with the CEISS project. By providing 75 of the total 132 CEISS Seniors' Supportive Housing Apartments temporarily at McKellar Place, we are effectively bridging the gap in urgently needed housing until the CEISS apartments are complete."

The Transitional Supportive Housing will be located at McKellar Place, 325 Archibald St. S. and will open in October 2010.

Laura Kokocinski, Interim CEO, North West LHIN, says "Seniors are telling us they prefer to age at home. This increase in supportive housing will provide more seniors, who have care needs, the opportunity to live safely and independently in the community and prevent unnecessary admissions to long-term care."

The funding for the Transitional Housing at McKellar Place is being made available through the North West LHIN and will transfer to the CEISS when it is ready for occupancy. Tenants of McKellar Place will have the option to move into the CEISS at that time.

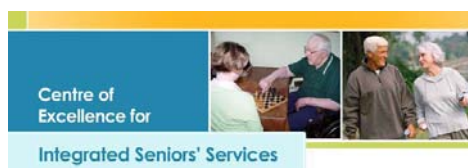
Tuija Puiras, CEO, NWCCAC, says "It is important for the NWCCAC to support seniors in the community as long as possible. By facilitating access to these supportive housing units, we can alleviate the need that exists in the region for appropriate resources to support seniors in their homes."

The Centre of Excellence for Integrated Seniors' Services will be located on Lillie Street North. For more information on CEISS, please visit www.ceisstbay.ca.

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For further information contact:
Tracy Buckler, President and CEO
St. Joseph's Care Group
(807) 768-4440

Attached: Backgrounder - CEISS Transitional Supportive Housing



Backgrounder

CEISS Transitional Supportive Housing

Seniors' Supportive Housing

Seniors' Supportive Housing is a coordinated and comprehensive array of services and programs designed to maintain each individual's optimal level of health and well-being. These services range from assistance with bathing, showering and shaving to help with meal preparation, housekeeping and medication reminders.

Supportive housing provides a secure living environment and regular contact with staff. It promotes independence and socializing in a home-like environment.

Funding

The funding is being made available through the North West Local Health Integration Network (LHIN) to establish supportive housing in a temporary location, until the Centre of Excellence for Integrated Seniors' Services (CEISS) is established. The cost to tenants for support services represents only thirty percent of the total cost. Seventy percent is funded by the North West LHIN.

Location of the Transitional Housing

The 75 transitional support housing apartments are located at McKellar Place, 325 Archibald St. S., on the site of the former McKellar Hospital.

Who is Eligible

Seniors who have both: (a) care needs and (b) a total household income of under \$60,672 are welcome to apply for Transitional Housing at McKellar Place.

What Transitional Housing Means

The supportive housing will be in a temporary location until the CEISS apartments is ready for occupancy. Once the CEISS is open, the 75 clients living within McKellar Place will have the option of then moving over to the new CEISS Supportive Housing.

The Importance of this Transitional Support Housing

These transitional support housing apartments will help reduce the wait lists for supportive housing. It will provide spaces for seniors at home with moderate to high support needs who require support to live independently. The supportive housing will also accommodate seniors waiting in hospital in acute care beds for available supportive housing. This will provide seniors with a more appropriate care environment and help reduce bed shortages in hospitals.

Planned Opening

The transitional support housing apartments will become available for occupancy on October 1, 2010.

Interested in Moving to McKellar Place?

Interested individuals are to contact Brenda, Community Care Coordinator at the North West Community Care Access Centre (NWCCAC) at 766-2814. The NWCCAC will establish a client waiting list for McKellar Place and oversee the referrals to the Transitional Support Housing Program.

Public Information Sessions

Public information sessions regarding the Transitional Support Housing apartments in McKellar Place will take place:

- Tuesday, June 15, 2010 - 7:00 pm
- Thursday, June 17, 2010 - 7:00 pm
- Sunday, June 20, 2010 - 3:00 pm

All sessions will take place in the Georgian Room at St. Joseph's Heritage, 63 Carrie St. Thunder Bay, ON.

These sessions will provide full details including apartment drawings, eligibility requirements, the assessment and referral process, tenant costs, the support services and more.

The Centre of Excellence for Integrated Seniors' Services

- Enhanced services for existing supportive housing units
- Community support services for an additional 120 clients
- Special funding for services provided by LHIN funded organizations, to support a senior client temporarily on a higher service level.
- 336 new long-term care beds, including 64 beds for seniors in the Northwest with responsive behaviours (i.e. dementia)
- 132 new supportive housing units

For more information about the Centre of Excellence for Integrated Seniors' Services (CEISS) visit www.ceisstbay.ca.