



Media Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Police-Hospital Transition Protocol

As of November 24, 2021, a joint agreement has been made by community partners detailing the process and protocol to transition individuals into hospital after they are apprehended by police under the *Mental Health Act*. These community partners include Woodstock Police Service, the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP), Woodstock Hospital, Tillsonburg District Memorial Hospital, and Alexandra Hospital Ingersoll; and may be extended to include stakeholders such as paramedic services, community-based mental health and addiction agencies, and peer and family supports.

The agreement outlines the responsibilities of each of the signatories for safe, seamless, and timely transition of an apprehended individual between police officers and hospital staff.

“This protocol will ensure the rights of those apprehended, including the right to privacy; enhance collaboration of community partners; allow for more efficient use of police resources; and increase the safety for all involved,” says Daryl Longworth, Chief of Police at Woodstock Police Service, in collaboration with OPP Detachment Commander, Anthony Hymers.

“Establishing a comprehensive protocol for these transitions will enhance our existing working relationship with our community partners and will allow us to improve outcomes for people experiencing a mental health or addictions-related crisis when they are brought to one of our hospitals by an officer,” agrees Perry Lang, President & CEO of Woodstock Hospital, and Sandy Jansen, President & CEO of Alexandra Hospital Ingersoll and Tillsonburg District Memorial.

The Police-Hospital Transition Protocol agreement includes joint educational sessions to support front line staff in the roll out of this protocol. Community partners are committed to assisting each other in their training needs to ensure positive outcomes are achieved.

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