



News Release

October 3, 2013

Central Health announces operational improvement initiatives

October 3, 2013, Grand Falls-Windsor, NL – Central Health today outlined its operational improvement initiatives which will increase efficiency and result in savings of approximately \$8.7 million annually. The savings are comprised of a number of non-labour initiatives as well as a reduction of approximately 76 Full Time Equivalents (FTEs). All reductions will be achieved through attrition and reduced hours for employees and there will be no layoffs. Through initiatives that have already been completed or are in progress, Central Health has saved \$5.7 million of the \$8.7 million. Full time equivalents have been reduced by approximately 42 which is over 50 per cent of the total FTE reduction. This has been completed with no impact on the delivery of programs and services.

“As a publicly funded organization, it is our duty to ensure that we are delivering programs and services as efficiently as possible,” said Rosemarie Goodyear, interim CEO of Central Health. “We need a health system that is sustainable to provide safe and quality services to citizens of our region today and in the long term. We know that the only way to achieve that sustainability is to become more efficient.”

In June of 2012, Central Health began an operational improvement process designed to determine strategies to achieve efficiencies. Managers were asked to identify changes that could be made to help the organization to work smarter and more efficiently in the delivery of programs and services while having no negative impact on quality, safety or service volumes.

“I want to thank our staff, particularly our managers, for all of the hard work that they put into identifying and implementing initiatives to improve our operations,” said Ms. Goodyear. “Their diligent efforts are the primary reason why we have been able to move forward with becoming a more efficient organization.”

Generally, Central Health’s operational improvement initiatives will achieve savings through reductions in sick leave relief and overtime; better procurement practices; skill mix changes; realignment of management duties; changes in scheduling patterns; and adjustments in support services. The FTE reductions come from various programs and services and are dispersed throughout the central region. While there will be no layoffs, some temporary employees will experience a reduction in their number of hours and some permanent employees will experience less overtime.

"The major theme that has underpinned all the work that we have done with our operational improvement efforts is that the quality and safety of programs and services is paramount and cannot be compromised," said Ms. Goodyear. "I want to reassure the people of the central region that these initiatives will not have a negative impact on the quality and safety of the care we provide, in fact they will result in a more efficient delivery of services."

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Media Contact:
Stephanie Power
Director of Corporate Communications
stephanie.power@centralhealth.nl.ca
(709) 256-5532