

## **Partnering for Patients** **The Merger Process – Backgrounder** April 7, 2011

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### **Definition:**

- The Credit Valley Hospital and Trillium Health Centre are proposing to merge the two hospitals under the *Local Health System Integration Act* (LHSIA).
- The provisions of the LHSIA with respect to voluntary integration apply where a health service provider wishes to integrate its services with those of another entity. "Services" include those that are provided directly to people; that support other services or programs directly provided to people; and that support the operations of the hospital.

### **How Did We Get Here:**

- Over the past few years, Credit Valley and Trillium have implemented a number of successful partnerships – both clinical and administrative – that have yielded clinical benefits, financial savings, efficiencies and a strong relationship between the two organizations.
- Our Boards of Directors are community-based, driving this initiative for the communities we serve. Initial discussions between the Boards on partnerships started in late 2009. At that time, principles of collaboration were set and opportunities for partnership were identified.
- In early 2010, the Boards of both hospitals agreed to formally explore opportunities for greater partnership and integration. The Boards met independently to discuss the partnership opportunities and in November 2010 passed a resolution to merge, contingent on outcomes of due diligence.
- We have informed the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care and formally notified the LHIN of our intention to merge. We have also secured directional support from Mayor McCallion, Mayor Rob Ford and key community stakeholders.
- The LHIN now has 60 days to review our proposal. During this time, we intend to gather appropriate feedback on our new vision from a wide range of internal and external audiences.

### **60 Days of Engagement**

- We believe the proposed merger will help us significantly improve health care in our community and we will be seeking a wide range of clinical and community views about both the opportunities and risks. Due diligence will also include a full risk assessment, such as a review of the financial, human resources, clinical and other assets of the two organizations.

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- The Ontario Ombudsman's key recommendations for effective community consultation have also been incorporated into the engagement strategy.
- Our Boards will review the community consultation input, the risk assessment and other due diligence, and make the final decision regarding implementation.
- The LHIN has 60 days from receipt of the formal integration proposal to review it. If the LHIN determines that the proposal is not in the public interest, it may pursue a 30 day community consultation process to seek additional input. If the LHIN determines the proposal to be in the public interest, then it will take no action.
- We are fully committed to an open and transparent process during the 60 day due diligence period and moving forward, to ensure that the merger is planned effectively. No service reductions are part of this plan. The emergency departments of both organizations will also remain open.

## **Community:**

- We will be implementing a full engagement strategy to gather feedback from the community, local leaders, our health care partners, our patients and their families. The strategy will include: surveys, focus groups, face-to-face meetings, a dedicated web site, and a single point for feedback via email, phone and mail.

## **Internally:**

- We view staff, physician and volunteer feedback as critical to this process and want to ensure there are a variety of confidential ways to participate including town halls, regular communications and meetings, a dedicated web site, surveys, focus groups and other specialized feedback mechanisms.

## **Transition Planning**

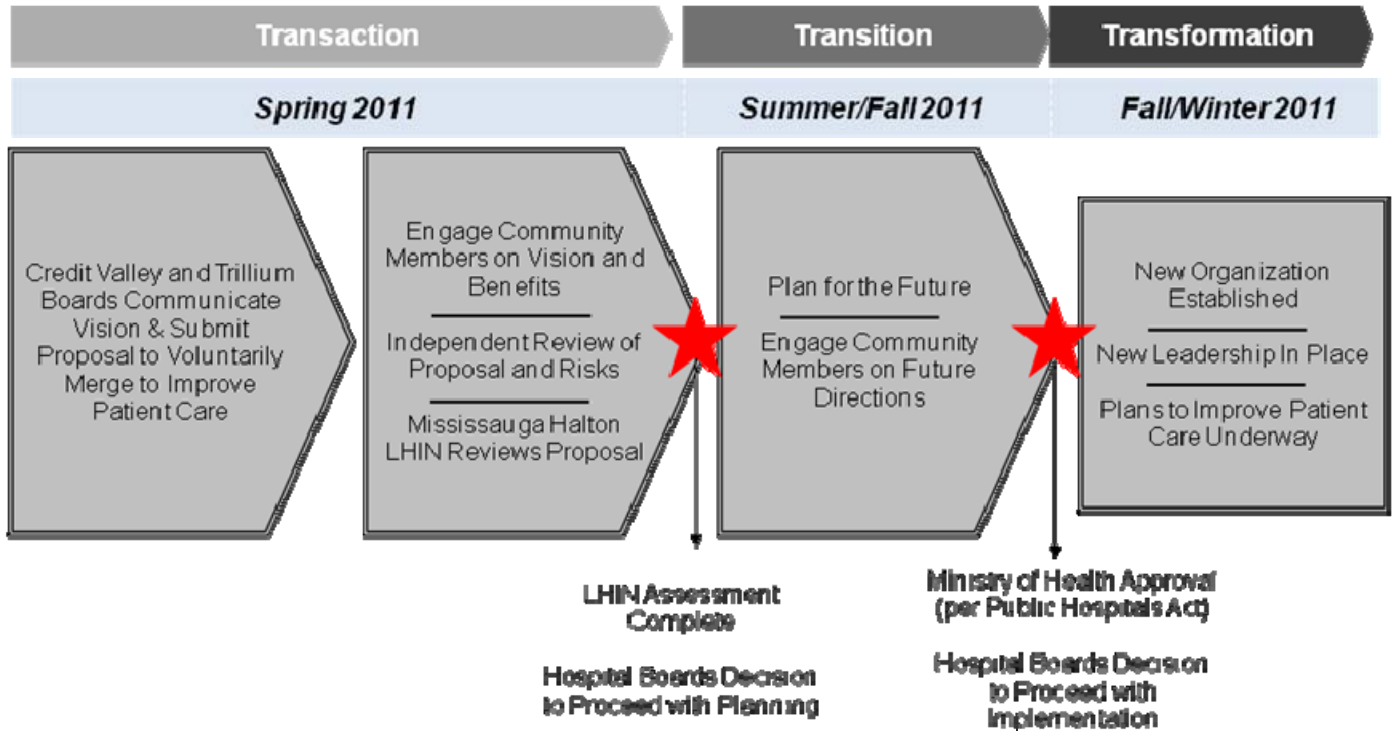
- We are in the process of building a full implementation plan for the transition period that will involve clinical and administrative leaders at all levels in both organizations. The community consultation process will inform this greatly.
- The Boards of Directors of Credit Valley and Trillium will make the final decision on moving forward in full consultation with the LHIN and the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care.

## **Merger**

- Our goal is complete the merger by the beginning of Fiscal 2012/13.

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## Overview of Timelines



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