



Collaborative Maternity Centre Update

Please share this message with staff and/or the stakeholders you represent through print, email and at your team meetings.

Please contact [Barbie Leggett](#) with any comments or questions you have about this project. We welcome the opportunity to attend a team meeting to provide additional information and respond to questions.

Since the last update in September, the Steering Committee endorsed a space option that meets the needs of women and families, as well as the operational needs of the Centre. This option will have the Centre located on the VGH campus, in proximity to services that will promote streamlined care. Island Health has allocated resources to have a LEAN design of the space and operations, and that process is underway.

The Working Group, which includes representatives from the physician, midwifery, nursing, and doula community, continues to prepare for the opening of the centre. Some of the work to date includes the development of roles and responsibilities for all practitioners that will be working within the Centre, evaluation of the planning phase of the project and the development of a recruitment plan. The working group will focus on a detailed space planning and technical design over the coming months.

On October 30, 2013, **Deborah Chaplain**, director of child youth and family program, **Dr. Jerome Dansereau**, medical director of perinatal services, **Azeita Harding** manager of perinatal services and NICU, **Yasmin Tuff**, manager of special projects and initiatives and **Barbie Leggett**, manager collaborative maternity care and perinatal ambulatory services, met with perinatal nurses, support staff, physicians, midwives, and doulas to provide information on child, youth and family initiatives, including an update on the Collaborative Maternity Care Centre. Approximately 50 people attended and were provided the opportunity to ask questions and discuss the implementation phase of the Care Centre. Discussions included the timing of the recruitment process and opening of the centre, the purpose of having doulas as part of the team, the different model of care, the impact to the larger maternity care community, target patient population, midwifery scope of practice, home births and the role of the nurse within the clinic. The feedback was extremely helpful and the team will be working to address all aspects of questions/concerns.

Island Health's IM/IT Team has also been investigating options for the centre based on the functional program needs. Their involvement will continue over the coming months and in the near future a working committee will be struck to plan for the opening.

The outstanding issue of bridge funding for non-employee practitioners is being actively pursued by the Steering Committee, with representatives from Island Health leadership and the physician and midwifery community. Island Health is committed to having the centre open as soon as possible and recognizes that without bridge funding in place to support providers in the start up phase, the clinic's start date may be delayed past this fall. The plan is for the recruitment process to begin for physicians and midwives, and positions posted as soon as practitioner bridge funding is confirmed. This will provide practitioners with time to adjust their practices before the centre opens. The Steering Committee is working to resolve this issue and will keep stakeholders posted as more information becomes available.

For more information, see the list of FAQs (attached).

If you have any questions or comments about this project, please contact [Barbie Leggett](#).

Island Health's Child, Youth and Family Health program, as a partner in care for women and children, is refocusing its perinatal services to ensure families receive the level of care and support they require. The Collaborative Maternity Care Clinic is a project within this service redesign that will better serve women in the South Island.

