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Campbellford Memorial Hospital (CMH) Forecasts a Balanced Budget for 2012/2013

CAMPBELLFORD, ON – At Campbellford Memorial Hospital’s February 7 Board of Directors meeting, CMH President and CEO Brad Hilker provided an update on the hospital’s financial health. Hilker reported that the hospital is forecasting to end its current fiscal year in a balanced budget position.

He attributed a number of initiatives that have helped the hospital manage its expenses and operations with efficiency while continuing to meet the health care needs of the community it serves. Steps taken to ensure the hospital achieved its budget included negotiating shared service agreements with other health care providers to make the most of available resources as well as promoting staff from within the hospital to fill vacancies created with the departure of hospital personnel earlier this year.

“Our staff and physicians are to be commended for doing all that they can to provide better value, access to care and quality care to our patients. Like other hospitals in Ontario, CMH is facing very challenging cost pressures. Today, we are meeting Ministry of Health and Long Term Care quality and financial objectives. Effectively managing our resources is a key priority and we are doing all we can to meet Ministry requirements. It is, however getting very difficult to meet all the healthcare delivery requirements with the resources we have, and we have to make difficult choices in the future to protect our financial health,” said Hilker.

Hilker recognized the on-going efforts of staff to improve quality, patient safety, and meet the conditions of the hospital’s accountability agreement with the Central East Local Health Integration Network (LHIN). “Our compliance with our Antibiotic Stewardship Program and hand hygiene results at 100% are stellar results. We have seen a significant reduction in our Alternative Level of Care Days. Our CT scan wait time is the shortest in the LHIN and access for acute patients in our Emergency Room is consistent with our performance targets,” he shared at the meeting.

Hilker also noted that the demand for hospital services is increasing every year, while the funds available to support the delivery of these services are not keeping up. Any increases in funding received by the LHIN or the Ministry are modest at best and are by no means covering the continued raising cost of inflation.

Hospital Administration is working towards a balanced budget for 2013/14 Fiscal year and looking to identify savings in the range of \$360,000 to \$492,000 to offset ongoing cost pressures. “We are planning on putting a number of initiatives into play to close this anticipated gap, including the creation of service agreements with other health care providers, the anticipation of revenue created with the installation of solar panels on the hospital’s roof and the installation of an Automated Teller Machine (ATM) at the hospital,” noted Hilker. Savings will also be gained as CMH continues to identify opportunities to promote staff to new roles and redesign work processes while continuing to meet patient needs. With better scheduling practices and turnaround time and by adopting best practices from other hospitals, CMH is completing more surgeries in less time and saving financial resources along the way.

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