

**Lake of the Woods District Hospital**  
**LWDH Accessibility Plan Annual Report - 2020**

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**Executive Summary**

The Lake of the Woods District Hospital Accessibility Plan Annual Report (2019), summarizes the activities of the LWDH Accessibility Advisory Committee, by reporting on the progress of measures taken to implement the LWDH multi-year Accessibility Plan in 2020.

**Commitment to accessibility planning**

The Lake of the Woods District Hospital has a commitment to providing an accessible and responsive environment to its clients and staff. This commitment is evident in the LWDH policy- Accessibility – General Requirements:

The Lake of the Woods District Hospital (LWDH) is committed to treating all people in a way that allows them to maintain their dignity and independence. We believe in integration and equal opportunity. We are committed to meeting the needs of people with disabilities in a timely manner, and will do so by preventing and removing barriers to accessibility and meeting accessibility requirements under the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005

## **The Accessibility Advisory Committee**

The LWDH Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC) was first convened on July 14, 2003, and has continued to meet regularly since. The AAC guides the LWDH in ensuring that its environment and services are accessible to all. LWDH members are chosen for their unique skills, knowledge and key positions of authority. Community members are specifically invited to join the AAC based on their ability to represent the following key groups:

- Mobility impaired
- Visually impaired
- Hearing impaired
- Mental Health
- Seniors

The AAC is scheduled to meet 3 times annually. The AAC reviews previously identified accessibility issues, identifies new accessibility issues, develops management strategies for accessibility issues, and refines the process for ensuring that LWDH policies and procedures are consistent with accessibility requirements.

## **2020 – LWDH AAC - Summary of Activities**

**The LWDH AAC met only once in 2020, on Jan 20, 2020, due to the COVID-19 pandemic.** Further meetings were deferred until the group could meet again face to face in order to ensure best accessibility, but this did not occur. In Jan, 2020, the group reviewed the progress of the previously identified barriers and further identified, listed, and prioritized new barriers on an Excel spreadsheet as Barrier ID Form 2020 (Appendix 1, Sheet 1). Removal and prevention strategies were identified, prioritized and completed as possible.

Major activities undertaken by the LWDH in 2020 included:

- Pursued NWAHA development of voluntary accessible needs flagging in EMR
- Ongoing liaison with community partners such as Kenora Age Friendly Committee and OHCNAP
- Continuation of AAC representative on Patient Family Advisory Committee
- Continuation of AAC representation on all nations hospital steering committee

- Ongoing signage review and revision as required
- Ongoing development of wayfinding maps and process for distribution, with multiple structural and functional changes throughout building due to COVID 19
- Ongoing upgrades and purchase of equipment as required, including bariatric seating and beds

### **Conclusion**

The LWDH AAC will continue to meet 3 times per year either face to face or virtually in order to identify physical, architectural, informational, communications, attitudinal, technological, or policy/practice accessibility issues in the LWDH, and to continue to make recommendations that will address these accessibility issues. The AAC will regularly monitor, respond to and ensure compliance with all AODA initiatives and IAS requirements.