

## Sustainable Health System Community of Practice

### Terms of Reference

#### Background

Climate change is recognized as the biggest global health threat of the 21st century and reduction in greenhouse gas emissions is central to global efforts to address climate change. Healthcare is a highly resource intensive and polluting service sector, and a significant source of greenhouse gas emissions in Canada and around the world. Across TAHSN and the Health Science Faculties at the University of Toronto, many of our staff, faculty and trainees are playing important roles in efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, but there are opportunities for us to do more collectively. A sustainable health system provides high quality, accessible and equitable care while taking into account and mitigating the impact of that care on the climate and our future. Collectively embracing sustainability as part of our commitment means that we work together to provide evidence, ideas, leadership and advocacy to develop a climate resilient, low carbon and sustainable health system through action, research and education.

In 2020, the leadership of Toronto Academic Health Science Network (TAHSN) and the Council of Health Sciences (CHS), which represents the University of Toronto health sciences sector, identified an urgent need to work together, along with other partners, to address this important health and social issue. The Sustainable Health System Community of Practice was initiated in September 2020, led by Executive Sponsors from the TAHSN CEO Committee and the Council of Health Sciences of the University of Toronto. Starting with a two-year term, the Community of Practice was renewed in 2022 for a three-year term, with a refreshed mandate.

#### Purpose

The purpose of the Sustainable Health System Community of Practice is to:

- 1) Leverage and share best practices in practice change**
  - a. Mobilize local expertise and global evidence to support tests of change
  - b. Coordinate action through networks and working groups
- 2) Deepen capacity through knowledge mobilization and communication**
  - a. Monitor interest and engagement
  - b. Foster knowledge exchange across the Toronto Academic Health Science Network and Council of Health Sciences
  - c. Engage communications teams to share
- 3) Catalyze innovation locally, nationally, and internationally**
  - a. Facilitate the production and dissemination of new knowledge
  - b. Inspire new strategies to support the transition to a sustainable health system

#### Mandate

To support this purpose, the Sustainable Health System Community of Practice is to:

- Develop an annual workplan as well as an annual report on work accomplished, and release these publicly.

- Convene a table of senior leaders from across the Toronto Academic Health Science Network and Council of Health Sciences to guide the work of the Community of Practice.
- Organize and support topic specific events that bring together partners from across the Toronto Academic Health Science Network and the University to clarify issues, review options and new research, and identify priority items for collaborative action.
- Encourage and track community participation in educational efforts on sustainable healthcare and health systems for the Toronto Academic Health Science Network workforce.
- Identify, spread, leverage, and evaluate existing good practice strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions generated in the delivery of health care and the operation of health systems.
- Work towards broad uptake of the results of our efforts, provincially, nationally, and internationally.
- Apply to at least two funding opportunities annually to support implementation of collaborative action.

### Reporting Relationship

- The Community of Practice is accountable to the Toronto Academic Health Science Network CEO Committee and the Council of Health Sciences.

### Decision Making

- The Community of Practice shall make decisions by consensus.

### Meetings

- The Community of Practice was initiated with a two-year term. The Community of Practice's second term is extended to three years, with an opportunity to extend the term based on annual reviews of progress and the discretion of the Toronto Academic Health Science Network CEO and Council of Health Sciences Deans.

### Membership

- Executive Sponsors Co-Chairs – Toronto Academic Health Science Network CEO and Council of Health Sciences Dean.
- Senior leader (or designate) from all Toronto Academic Health Science Network hospitals.
- Senior leader (or designate) from University of Toronto health science faculties, as appropriate.
- Representative from Toronto Public Health and Ontario Health, to support a system-level focus related to integrated services and local planning.
- Community members (outside of the Toronto Academic Health Science Network and Council of Health Sciences) appointed where appropriate.
- Ex officio representation from the University of Toronto Centre for Sustainable Health Systems, which is to provide support to this initiative and serve as secretariat.

### Proposed skills/roles:

- C-Suite executives from the Toronto Academic Health Science Network and senior leaders from Council of Health Sciences who can influence and lead policy change in practice areas related to GHC emissions priorities and sustainable healthcare, including through shifts in the delivery of care, the organization of services, or the management of procurement and capital investment.
- Representatives from the Toronto Academic Health Science Network, Council of Health Sciences, and others with expertise in practice areas related to GHC emissions priorities or

expertise in research or education related to GHC emission measurement or mitigation and sustainable health systems.

- Additional expertise and technical skills to be consulted, as needed.