

## **CEO Message: We've Got You Covered**

It would appear that being part of an Ontario Health Team is an attractive proposition.

According to the Ministry of Health (MOH), over 150 self-assessments were received from across the province with over 1,000 different providers and organizations expressing interest in being part of the program.

As a result, the province extended its timeline for submitting full applications, but Ontario Health Team candidates are still expected to be announced this fall. The deadline for second round self-assessments is now December 4.

All of this is very exciting for TransForm, who – as you likely know – is quarterbacking the digital health portions of both the Windsor-Essex and Chatham-Kent submissions, building on the work we've done with the Local Health Integration Network and the connecting South West Ontario programs in years gone by.

Equally exciting is the guidance we recently received about oversight from MOH Deputy Minister Helen Angus.

At a governance session in Toronto that was attended by about 150 organizations, Angus said there would be “low rules, not no rules” for the successful Ontario Health Team applicants.

What does that mean?

I'm guessing it means a lot of autonomy is in the offing, and that the government is willing to support what works best for the teams, their patients and their communities.

I'm also guessing that there's still a lot to be determined. The ministry only expected 30 to 40 applications, so the sheer volume received has overwhelmed them.

As an aside, the diversity of the crowd in Toronto was surprising. There were a lot of smaller organizations and not-for-profits in attendance, some of whom provide services not actually funded by the ministry (TransForm was the only shared service provider in the room).

All of the applicants have been asked to keep planning while the MOH plays catch-up and in the interim, we've been told that key performance indicators or measures are going to be essential in the next round.

So we “keep on keeping on,” – and in the meantime, rest assured that we've got your digital health strategy covered.