

TransForm: We're literally right here

Basketball great Kobe Bryant once famously said "once you open your eyes and start looking around you, you start picking up things that are very obvious."

Although his reference to the basketball court works as a metaphor for life in general, it is especially appropriate when describing what's going on with the changing healthcare landscape in Ontario.

As you know by now, the province wants to build a modern, centralized procurement system that will "drive significant cost savings through the streamlining of purchasing processes across vendors and the consolidation of contracts for health care products" across the Ontario Public Service and broader public sector (to be clear, a centralized procurement system is not a single agency, but a common approach as described).

Ministry officials recently came to see us and laid out exactly what they're looking for from a patient, clinician and administrator's perspective. Patients, they said, expect seamless execution of end-to-end supply chain that is "invisible" to them. Clinicians want strategic sourcing and help with inventory operations, and administrators need transparency into decision-making and data for financial planning.

All of which should sound pretty familiar to anyone in Erie St. Clair; in addition to strategic sourcing, TransForm provides seamless purchasing, logistics and analytics services to five hospitals and our partners in home and community care that is invisible to their patients.

In other meetings with ministry officials, we know that Ontario Health is looking for digital health solutions that "take a digital first approach, in alignment with provincial digital health policies and standards, including the provision of digital choices for patients to access care and health information and the use of digital tools to communicate and share information among providers."

This should also ring a bell in Erie St. Clair; in addition to regional Hospital Information System renewal and our work with the connecting South West Ontario program, we operate a Tier 3 Data Centre, run the Regional Service Desk, and provide IT/IM service to five hospitals and multiple community health care facilities in the region.

It's why TransForm has partnered with Health Service Providers in Windsor-Essex and Chatham-Kent to submit two different Ontario Health Team proposals (the Windsor-Essex application is "in development" and the Chatham-Kent application was submitted on October 9th and are working on a third in Sarnia-Lambton).

Suffice to say that when it comes to finding ways to improve the patient experience, the province has its eyes wide open. Like Kobe Bryant, it's looking around for obvious solutions - and we're literally right here, leading innovation and improving healthcare.