



Media Release

Tuesday January 15, 2008

STEGH Announces Head Midwife Appointment

St. Thomas, ON – St. Thomas Elgin General Hospital (STEGH) is pleased to announce the appointment of Ms. Nikki Munkley as Head Midwife. Nikki has been on the Midwifery Staff since 2003.

STEGH has partnered with area midwives to expand childbirth options for the residents of Elgin County, and has been granting Midwifery privileges since 2001. A division of Midwifery has now been created within the Department of Obstetrics at the hospital.

“As the number of midwives has grown at STEGH, physician leaders felt it was important to ensure accountable leadership amongst the midwifery staff,” explains Dr. Lori Teeple, STEGH VP of Medical Affairs and Chief of Staff. “Ms. Munkley brings to this position excellent leadership skills and is highly regarded for her clinical skills as a midwife. She will fill a superb supervisory, mentoring and visionary role at the hospital.”

Dr. Catie Frank, Chief of Obstetrics and Gynaecology also welcomes this new role. “STEGH is proud to participate in offering choices to women and families for their birthing experience,” Dr. Frank says. “Establishing more direct leadership for midwives in the hospital helps continue a tradition of high quality experiences for women who choose a midwife as their practitioner.”

Midwives are registered health care professionals who provide primary care to low-risk women throughout their pregnancy, labour and birth and provide care to both mother and baby during the first six weeks following the birth. Midwifery clients may choose to give birth at home or in hospital. Midwives maintain hospital privileges at many Ontario hospitals and work collaboratively with other health care practitioners. Currently there are approximately 390 registered midwives in Ontario.

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