

# Physician Recruitment Roundtable Summary

Advancing Access to Family Doctors for All in Niagara

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# Roundtable Overview and Participants

## Event Date:

November 26, 2024

## Purpose:

Niagara's first-ever roundtable to develop coordinated strategies for attracting and retaining family doctors.

## Who Participated:

38 representatives from Niagara's municipalities, healthcare system, post-secondary institutions, family doctors, and Mayors and CAOs of the area municipalities.

## Goal:

To create a unified, region-wide approach to address the growing family physician shortage and improve healthcare access for all residents.



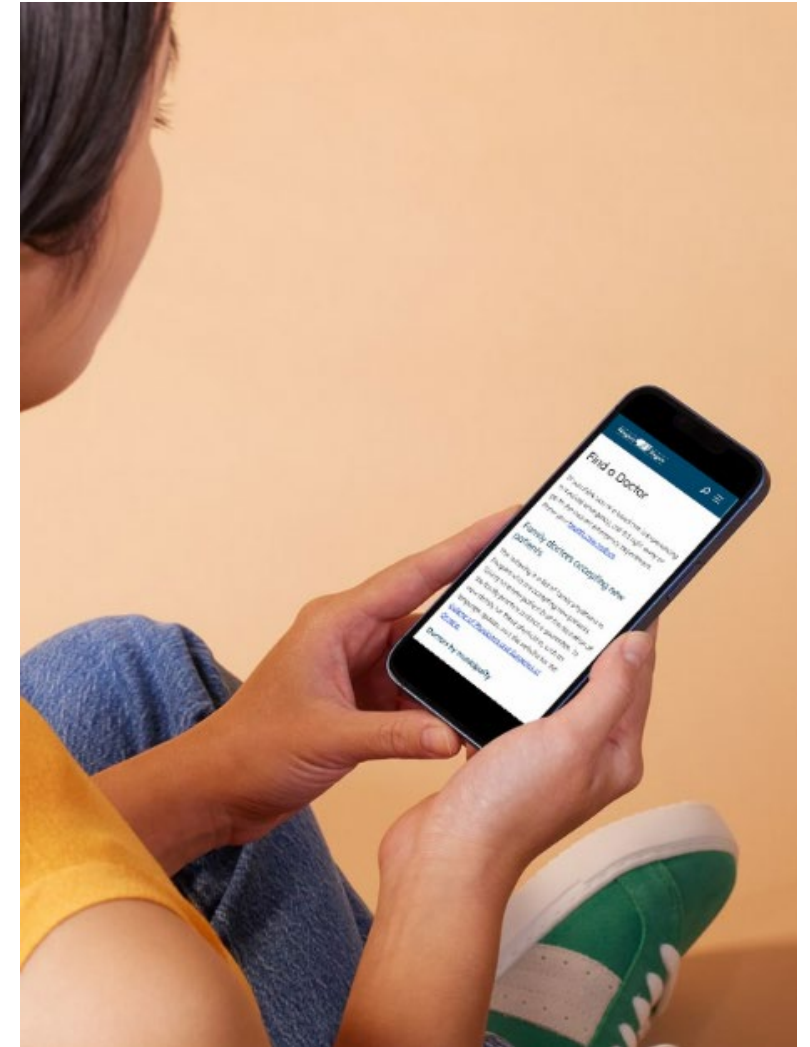
# The Current Situation – Addressing the Opportunity

- With Niagara's population expanding, the demand for family doctors is rising.
- Currently, **only 65% of Niagara residents** have access to a family doctor—a gap that we are committed to closing.
- The physician shortage is affecting more than just health—it impacts social services such as mental health programs, EMS, and homelessness supports.
- This is a challenge, but it is also a significant opportunity to strengthen our healthcare system and improve services for all.



# Building on Past Successes in Physician Recruitment

- Niagara has had significant success with the Physician Recruitment and Retention Specialist over the past 14 years.
- In 2024, Niagara attracted a record 26 new family physicians.
- While progress has been made, the demand continues to grow, requiring a more coordinated and collaborative approach.



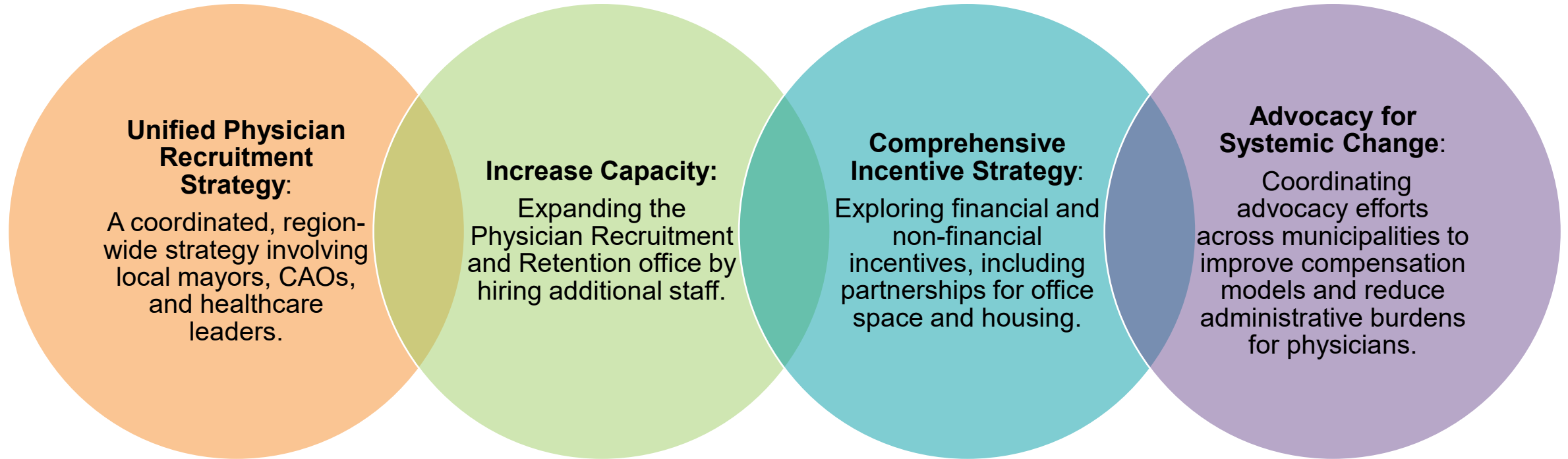


# Roundtable Discussions – Insights

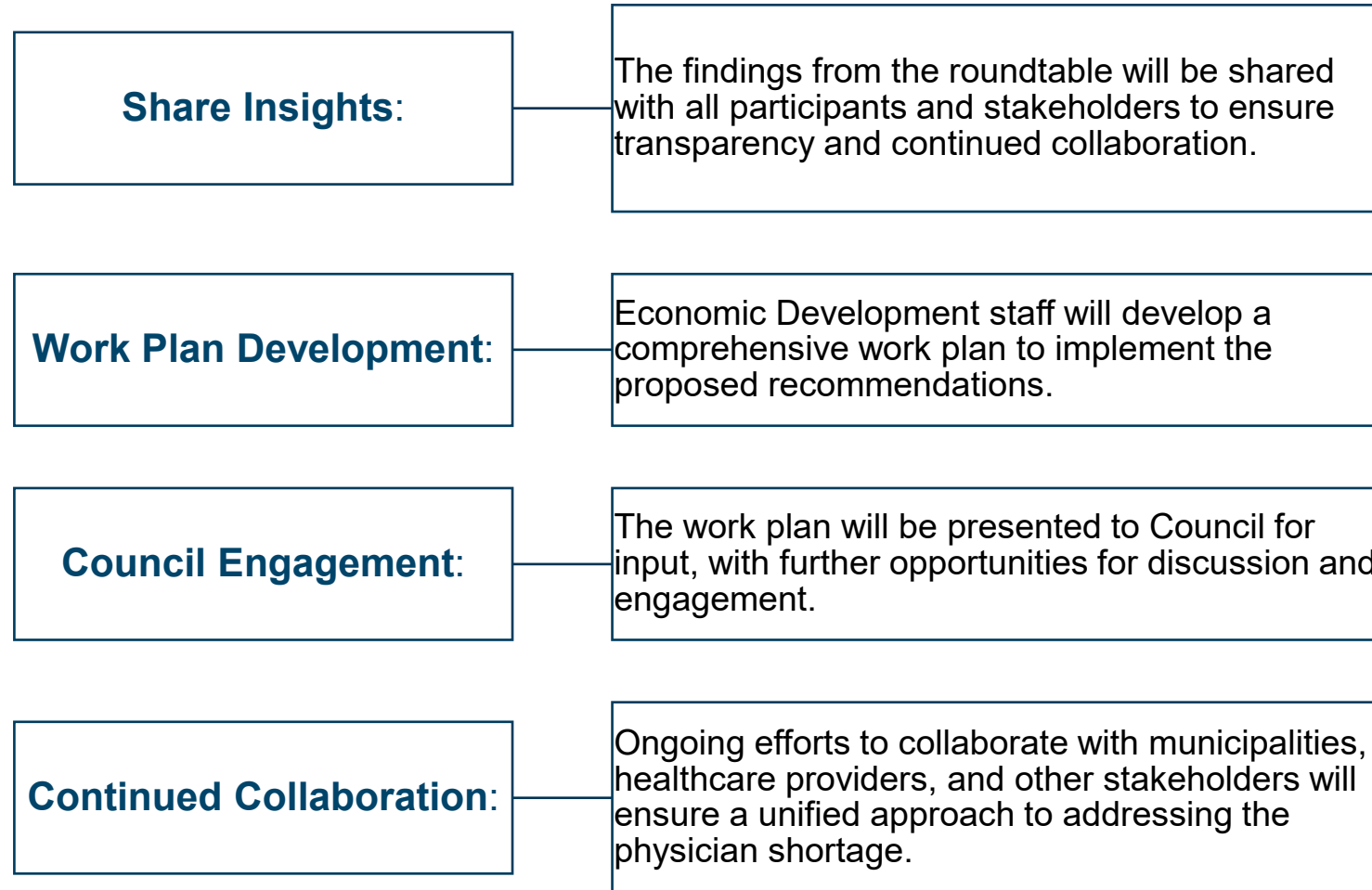
- **Physicians as Entrepreneurs:**
  - Physicians are both healthcare providers and business owners. Coordinated support is needed to help them set up practices.
- **Increased Collaboration:**
  - Municipalities should work together to share office space and financial incentives, improving coordination across Niagara.
- **Supporting Families:**
  - Attracting physicians requires considering their families' needs and promoting Niagara's lifestyle benefits.
- **Expanding Partnerships:**
  - Broader community partnerships (e.g., with financial institutions and law firms) will strengthen physician recruitment.
- **Capacity Challenges:**
  - The current Physician Recruitment Specialist is stretched thin, and additional resources are needed to meet growing demand.



# Recommendations for Strengthening Recruitment Efforts



# Next Steps for Enhancing Physician Recruitment



# Questions & Contact:

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