



Northern Shores News

A Newsletter of the Northern Shores District Health Council

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(as of April 1, 2002)

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Cathy Knox
Kate Pautler *
Dave Pearson
Hélène Philbin Wilkinson
Micheline Poitras
Judy Sharpe
Kelly Speers
Cindy Welsh
Colette Whitehead

(*on secondment with the MOHLTC)

HOW TO REACH US...

North Bay (head office):
222 McIntyre Street West, Suite 401
North Bay, Ontario P1B 2Y8
e-mail: info@nsdhc.on.ca
Phone: (705) 494-9126
Fax: (705) 494-9127

Huntsville:
36 Chaffey Street, Suite 202
Phone: (705) 789-4420

Parry Sound:
25 Church Street
Phone: (705) 746-2123

New Liskeard:
Temiskaming Hospital
Phone: (705) 647-0065

Supported by the Northern Shores District Health Council (NSDHC) over the past four months, the Children's Treatment Centre Implementation Task Force concluded its work at the end of January. Its recommendations to the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC) are outlined in the final report *An Implementation Plan for the Northern Shores Regional Children's Treatment Centre*. Highlights of the model for the new CTC are that it will ...

- serve all children and youth with rehabilitation/habilitation needs from newborn to age 21 in the rural and urban areas of the Districts of Muskoka, Nipissing, Parry Sound and Timiskaming;
- ensure linguistically and culturally appropriate service delivery processes are in place for the Francophone and Aboriginal populations;
- consolidate health funded rehabilitation services for children and youth with special needs in the region;
- adopt an interdisciplinary team approach including rehabilitation and allied services funded by the MOHLTC, Ministries of Community and Social Services (MCSS) and Education;
- include family-centred service coordinators through the consolidation of the current case management positions in CCACs and Integrated Services for Northern Children;
- deliver services primarily where children and youth live, play and attend school as the most appropriate environment conducive to positive rehabilitation outcomes;
- establish a site at the new health care campus in North Bay and work with stakeholders in the other districts to determine the location of sites in Muskoka, Parry Sound and New Liskeard;
- allocate new funding to enhance direct therapy services and access to specialty clinics;
- build and partner with agencies funded by the MCSS and the Ministry of Education; and
- engage in cross-district discussions and partnering with neighbouring CTCs and Bloorview MacMillan as the provincial resource.

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The Minister of Health and Long-Term Care's response to the Task Force is pending. Please contact the NSDHC for a copy of the full report.

CHILDREN'S TREATMENT CENTRE
IMPLEMENTATION TASK FORCE COMPLETES
ITS WORK

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HOSPITAL SERVICES

Rural and Northern Health Care Framework

The Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care's ongoing commitment to the implementation of the Rural and Northern Health Care Framework was recently reiterated to hospitals across the Province. By the end of April, the Ministry expects hospital networks to indicate how they plan to address sizing and siting of beds, the development of common information systems, common credentialing, and administrative rationalization.

Nipissing-Timiskaming Hospital Network Program Planning

The final report of the Nipissing-Timiskaming Hospital Network joint program planning project has been completed and will be reviewed by the Network's Joint Coordinating Committee in April. The report contains a wide array of recommendations and strategies to better coordinate services across the Hospitals and appropriate community services in the areas of: medicine, rehabilitation, emergency care, mental health, surgery, chronic care, obstetrics and clinical support. The Network will be selecting a number of priority items for action over the coming months.

Muskoka Hospitals

Representatives of the Huntsville District Memorial Hospital and South Muskoka Memorial Hospital are holding monthly meetings with NSDHC staff to initiate planning for increased service coordination between the two facilities. As a first step, a Muskoka Hospital Profile will be developed as a common information base for future discussions between the two Hospitals and community partners.

Given current and projected Muskoka District service requirements and medical practice standards, the NSDHC supported proposals from each of the Hospitals for the establishment of local CT Scan programs.

Hospital Operating Plans

The Ministry has changed the hospital operating plan process for 2002/2003. Instead of submitting full operating plans, hospitals were required to submit abbreviated business planning briefs to the Ministry in February based on MOHLTC operating assumptions.

In the past, DHCs reviewed operating plans in light of proposed program or service changes. Given the revised nature of the 2002/2003 process, DHCs will not have a major role unless full operating plans are required at a later date.

MENTAL HEALTH

Mental Health Program Reviews

The NSDHC and Algoma, Cochrane, Manitoulin and Sudbury (ACMS) DHC are providing support to the Ministry's review of community mental health programs being conducted by the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health. Results will be summarized by district clusters (i.e. Nipissing-Timiskaming) and by region (i.e. Northeast and Northwest) by the end of March.

New Prevalence Rate for Serious Mental Illness (SMI)

The MOHLTC's Mental Health and Rehabilitation Reform Branch recently endorsed a new SMI prevalence rate for program planning purposes of 2.5% of the adult population. An additional .5% has been added to the previous 2% figure to account for people living in institutions.

Children's Mental Health

At the request of the MOHLTC and MCSS, the NSDHC and ACMS DHC have jointly developed a work plan for the implementation of a planning framework regarding the development of a comprehensive continuum of child and adolescent specialized psychiatric and mental health services for the Northeast. This planning exercise is will commence upon Ministry approval of the project work plan.

Nipissing Mental Health System Group

With the support of the NSDHC, the System Group has completed a draft inventory of interagency service agreements and a synopsis of current levels of support provided to the communities throughout the District. Both resources are considered tools that will help programs collectively understand and address service gaps.

HEALTH CARE LABOUR MARKET SURVEY

This provincial initiative to gather health human resources data has been an opportunity for all 16 DHCs across the province to work collaboratively to plan for the future of health care in Ontario - especially at the local community level. This agency-based health human resources study is the first of its kind in Ontario. The results of the project (expected by the end of May) will enable DHCs to provide a snapshot of the current status of health human resources in Ontario with a focus on documenting recruitment and retention experiences encountered by provider agencies. Human Resources

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Development Canada will further use the data to assess community needs regarding the development of educational programs.

LONG-TERM CARE

Memory Assessment Working Group (MAWG)

In 1998, the Senior's Campus Committee of the Sudbury Region, created a subcommittee to look at the establishment of memory assessment services for Northeastern Ontario. The Working Group, made up of representatives from all over the Region, received funding to carry out a needs assessment. The needs assessment confirmed that these services were required in the Northeast. A business case has been developed which will be submitted this spring to different funders. The MAWG will continue to meet to move this project ahead.

Annual District Service Plan Consultations

Consultations were held in the Districts of Nipissing, Muskoka and Parry Sound to receive input about the Annual District Service Plan for the DHC's catchment area. Among the attendees were representatives of Community Care Access Centres, community support agencies and long-term care facilities. Each session provided an opportunity for participants to discuss current services and pressures within the context of the recommendations and goals set out in the NSDHC's Long-Term Care Multi Year Plan Update. The Annual District Service Plan report will be presented to Council in April.

Timiskaming Alzheimer Report

At the request of local stakeholders, the NSDHC provided planning support in the development of the *Plan for the Continuum of Care for Alzheimer Disease and Related Dementia in the District of Timiskaming*. The report assesses the service delivery base in light of current / projected demand and outlines recommendations in the areas of service requirements, system coordination and provincial policy development.

NORTHEAST TOBACCO SUMMIT

The NSDHC is proud to be a part of the Steering Committee for Canada's first ever large scale Tobacco Summit to be held at Nipissing University and Canadore College on June 10-12, 2002. Everyone who is or may be affected by tobacco issues is invited to attend, including: business owners, community and municipal leaders, health professionals and researchers, teachers, lawyers, and students. The Summit will be a unique

gathering designed as a series of focused dialogues which will be used to identify common ground for shared activity in the future. Please contact the NSDHC office in North Bay for registration details.

CHILDREN'S HEALTH

As part of Ontario's focus on children, two new Early Years Centres in the Northern Shores area were announced in March (Muskoka/Parry Sound, sponsored by Algonquin Child and Family Services; and North Bay and District, sponsored by the North Bay and District Association for Community Living). The NSDHC participated on the Steering Committees for the two Centres that are mandated to provide:

- Early learning for children ages 0-6 (such as literacy and interactive activities).
- Parent resources, information and training on topics such as healthy child development.
- Pre / post natal resources, information and training.
- Information and referrals to link families with services external to the Centres.
- Outreach to encourage parent participation.
- Volunteer coordination and speakers bureau.
- Monitoring program effectiveness and tracking community progress in improving child development outcomes.

FRENCH LANGUAGE SERVICES

The NSDHC's French Language Services Committee continues to work with a number of agencies to refine or develop their FLS implementation plan submissions. Additionally, the Committee, in collaboration with the MOHLTC, is exploring mechanisms to promote the development of FLS plans within the long-term care sector.

EMERGENCY HEALTH SERVICES

The Northeast Area Emergency Health Services (EHS) Advisory Committee, formed in 1986, held its last meeting in March. Established as joint committees of DHCs in each region in Ontario, the MOHLTC has decided to end its support for the current structure in light of initiatives being undertaken by regional Emergency Health Strategy projects. Given the importance of EHS in the Northern Shores area, the DHC will continue to work on EHS issues, with a particular focus on injury prevention. Anticipated activities will continue in areas such as the provincial stroke strategy, children's trauma study, trauma education for providers, injury prevention (SMARTRISK,

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supporting community coalitions), and updating established regional databases (e.g. ER services inventory).

HOMELESSNESS

As a member of a broad coalition of community agencies, faith groups and interested individuals, the NSDHC has been active in the Muskoka Homelessness Advisory Group. The Group's focus on homelessness and the need for crisis shelter in the Muskoka District has resulted in:

- the opening of the first short-term emergency housing apartment in Huntsville for families experiencing a housing crisis;
- a presentation to the Hon. Claudette Bradshaw, Federal Coordinator on Homelessness, regarding a shelter subsidy pilot project proposal for low income Muskokans;
- the initiation of a housing review to: quantify the supply and demand for housing; and identify public and private sector opportunities to meet the current and future demand for housing in the District.

REGIONAL PLANNING

Northeast Dialysis Services Report

Supported by the ACMS and NS DHCs, the Northeast Dialysis Steering Committee has prepared a report of its work that started in February 2001. The report reviews the current status of dialysis services in the region in light of a higher prevalence of end stage renal disease (than the national average), and expected growth due to the changing population base.

Northern Medical School

Planning for Ontario's new medical school in Northern Ontario is moving forward. For more information on the project's progress over the coming months, please visit www.northernmedicalschool.ca

Regional Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Meeting

In collaboration with the ACMS DHC, the NSDHC will be organizing a half day session on May 30 in Sault Ste. Marie for hospitals across the Northeast to hear about and discuss trends in health related ICT.

STAY TUNED

Stay tuned for the following items in upcoming issues of the Northern Shores News:

NSDHC Operating Plan

The NSDHC will be preparing its 2002/2003 operating plan based on MOHLTC and community initiated priorities. Please contact the NSDHC if you have any ideas for planning projects.

NSDHC Website

NEW NSDHC PUBLICATIONS

The NSDHC's web site is under development and should be online within 3-6 months!

- Northeast Dialysis Services Project Report – February 2002
- Review of the Timiskaming Crisis Response System – April 2002
- Annual Long-Term Care Annual District Service Plan Review – April 2002
- A Plan for the Continuum of Care for Alzheimer Disease and Related Dementia in the District of Timiskaming – April 2002

MOHLTC NEWS

To stay up-to-date with recent provincial developments, below you will find a number of MOHLTC headlines taken from www.newswire.ca/government/ontario.

February 2002

- Ontario to ensure 100% water safety funding for public health units
- Patients to receive itemized health care statements under new pilot project
- Telehealth Ontario passes half-million mark in calls in first year
- Ontario moves forward with new Community Care Access Centres
- Minister announces \$800,000 to attract medical students to Ontario

January 2002

- Ontario commits \$4 million for groundbreaking asthma plan of action
- Ontario Minister of Health releases results of public consultations

December 2001

- Ontario moves forward with multi-billion dollar expansion of health care facilities
- Ontario government and Ontario Hospital Association release groundbreaking hospital report cards
- Ministry and Women's Council announce funding for osteoporosis