



Ontario

Agency for Health
Protection and Promotion

Agence de protection et
de promotion de la santé

The Exchange

April 1, 2011

Volume 1, Issue 2

Welcome to The Exchange, a monthly e-newsletter with news and information about services supporting applied research, program evaluation, education, professional development and knowledge exchange in public health.

More information is available on OAHPP's [website](#), so be sure to check there for regular updates.

Please share this bulletin with staff and colleagues.

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Collaborative Projects Update

Collaborating to Advance Public Health – Locally Driven Collaborative Projects Workshop

- The locally driven collaborative projects (LDCP) will provide health units, public health associations, community partners and researchers an opportunity to partner to conduct an applied research or program evaluation project related to a critical public health issue.

On April 5, 2011, the first of three workshops is being held to develop and facilitate the selection of the 2011 locally driven collaborative projects. Representatives from 31 health units (including 44 health unit staff) and 10 individuals representing universities, ministries and community partners will be participating in the inaugural event. An external facilitator will guide the agenda and facilitate discussions throughout the day.

Themes for Locally Driven Collaborative Projects - The themes for the 2011 locally driven collaborative projects have been selected. They are:

- Child and Youth Health
- Equity/Access
- Environment
- Injury Prevention

- Obesity
- Public Health Practice

If you have an idea for a project that relates to one of these themes please speak to your organization's [representative](#) who will be attending the ***Collaborating to Advance Public Health - Locally Driven Collaborative Projects Workshop***, or send your idea to Shawna.gutfreund@oahpp.ca. For more information visit the [Locally Driven Collaborative Projects](#) section of the website.

New Positions to Support Locally Driven Collaborative Projects - OAHPP is hiring two new positions to support the locally driven collaborative projects: a knowledge exchange specialist and a research facilitator. For more information or to apply, please visit the [Careers](#) section of our website.

SPEP Network Meeting

Collective thinking, synergy and innovation best describe the first meeting of the Student Placement Education and Preceptor (SPEP) Network held on March 17th. Representatives from 14 health units met to discuss the strengths and gaps surrounding public health student placements in Ontario and began to envision what information, knowledge and supports are needed to build capacity and provide student placement and preceptor support to all health units.

Throughout March, key informant interviews were conducted to gain an understanding of the student placement and preceptor needs of all health units. Our next steps include analyzing the key informant data, finalizing the SPEP Network structure, and developing a work plan and work teams based on the needs identified by the key informant interviews.

If you would like to join the SPEP Network or if would like more information about it, visit our [website](#) or contact Karen Jenkins, Student Education and Preceptor Liaison, at Karen.jenkins@oahpp.ca



Several members of the SPEP Network display their visioning posters at the March 17th meeting. Pictured from left to right are: Colleen Rickert (Waterloo Region); Anne Jensen (Porcupine); Erin McLean (Leeds, Grenville and Lanark); Aisha Alladin (Sudbury & District) and; Marcia Annamunthodo (York Region).

Library Service and Resource Assessments

Our first step in shaping new library services has been to conduct an environmental scan of all health units to assess their current status of organizational access to information, resources and library services. Thanks to everyone who took the time to complete the surveys and to provide us with this important information. We'd also like to thank the Ontario Public Health Libraries Association (OPHLA), with whom we've been working prior to and during the assessment phase and will continue to consult with as we develop the new library services.

Our next steps include forming a library services working group to provide input into future library services, and developing and delivering training on the Virtual Library to staff at health units across Ontario. A notice will be sent to all health units in April inviting interested individuals to join the work group. The terms of reference will be provided at that time. The first meeting of the work group is proposed for some time in May.

The Virtual Library training is currently being developed in consultation with OPHLA. The training session will be delivered in person to health units without a library. Those health units will receive more information about this exciting training opportunity in April and will be contacted directly to schedule the training starting in June. For more information, visit the [Library Services](#) section of the website.

Ethics Support Opportunities

Call for Working Group Members - Public health units will soon have access to ethics services offered by OAHPP. To help ensure that these services meet the needs and priorities of public health units, join the Ethics Services Working Group. This group will provide advice, feedback and recommendations on the new ethics services, including educational topics and tools, a public health ethics community of practice, common forms and tools, and an ethics review board. If you would like to join this working group or find out more information, visit the [Ethics Support](#) section of the website or contact Nancy at nancy.ondrusek@oahpp.ca.

Secondment/Contract Opportunity in Ethics - Are you interested in ethics? Have you ever wanted to amend the ethics review process so that it could better meet the needs of population and public health? If so, you may be interested in a position at OAHPP that will help develop and implement new ethics services for public health units. For more information about this exciting opportunity or to apply, visit the [Career](#) section of our website.

Knowledge Exchange: Developing a Public Health Web-Based Platform

As part of its broader knowledge exchange strategy, OAHPP is developing a web-based system for public health. The strategy includes planning for web-based access to credible scientific advice, practical tools, training and education, information and expertise in a range of areas relating to public health. Consultants from the firm PSTG were hired to advise on the platform and conducted extensive consultations with the field in February and March 2011. Thanks to all health units and professional associations for their input and advice.

The platform is intended to be a one-stop access to training, information and collaborative platforms linking public health practitioners, front-line health workers and researchers. The Association of Local Public Health Agencies (alPHA) and the Ontario Public Health Association (OPHA) are part of the project's steering committee and have partnered with OAHPP in the initial assessment of what is needed by whom; how audiences want to receive information; how this material can be delivered most effectively; how existing technology can be leveraged to meet identified needs and what new investments should be considered.

The consultant report is due shortly and key results will be shared to allow for broad system understanding of the needs, technology capacity and strategy going forward.

For more information, visit the [Knowledge Exchange Support](#) section of our website.

OAHP Recruiting for Director of Knowledge Services

OAHP is currently recruiting for the position of Director, Knowledge Services. This person will lead the development, implementation, strategic management and performance of the Agency's knowledge support services (knowledge exchange, professional education, public health library services and public health ethics and research support). For more information about this exciting job opportunity or to apply, visit the [Careers](#) section of our website.

Contact Us

If you would like more information about the program or would like to receive ***The Exchange***, please contact us at feedback@oahpp.ca. Program updates are also posted regularly on our [website](#).

OAHP welcomes the opportunity to talk to you further about the program and its services. If you would like OAHP to attend your health unit, team, association, or working group meeting to discuss the program further, please contact us at feedback@oahpp.ca.

Stay tuned to future issues of The Exchange for further updates

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