

The Exchange

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The Exchange is a bi-monthly e-newsletter containing news and information about Public Health Ontario's services supporting applied research, program evaluation, education, professional development and knowledge exchange in public health. More information is available at [Public Health Ontario](#).

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Library services update

Library environmental scan report released – [Access to Library Resources and Services for Public Health Units in Ontario: Environmental Scan Report, August 2011](#) is now available. This report provides the results of the scan of public health units in Ontario conducted by Public Health Ontario in March and April 2011, to assess provincial capacity in library resources and services, assess the needs of health units without libraries in greater detail, and identify service and resources gaps. Survey results indicated that existing health unit libraries are well resourced as a group, but differences exist between the individual libraries in terms of staff capacity, access to scientific sources and scope of library services. For health units without libraries, results suggested that these health units usually have a more difficult time than health units with libraries providing staff with the resources and support they need to deliver evidence-based practice. The results of the scan are being used to design a new shared library services partnership for Ontario health units.

Library services working group wraps up – The Shared Library Services Partnership Working Group (SLSPWG) is wrapping up its work in September. This group — consisting of three staff from health units with libraries, three staff from health units without libraries, and three Public Health Ontario staff — met throughout the summer to discuss and explore how the partnership will work and function. The group will provide Public Health Ontario with its recommendations from a public health library user and service provider perspective. The recommendations will help to inform Public Health Ontario as it finalizes the design and implementation details of the partnership.

Virtual Library training – A training session about the Virtual Library for staff of health units currently without in-house library services will soon be available. These health units will be contacted by Public Health Ontario to schedule the free half-day training session, which will be delivered by a public health librarian on-site during the fall months. The session is being developed in partnership with the Ontario Public Health Libraries Association. Training materials will also be made available electronically to library staff at the health units with libraries.

LDCP collaborative teams formed

On July 14th, 62 representatives from public health units and other public health stakeholders came together for the third locally driven collaborative projects (LDCP) workshop, *Developing the Proposal*. The purpose of the workshop was to bring team members together face-to-face to begin work on their project proposals. Public Health Ontario also provided a number of resources to assist the teams with proposal development including a proposal, presentation on how to write a research question and objective statements, as well as on-site facilitation.

The majority of the day was spent in break-out groups so project teams could begin to work through the LDCP submission form. Teams were asked to focus on establishing their research question and objectives and creating an action plan to identify roles and responsibilities for completing the proposal

submissions over the summer.

On July 29th, collaborative teams identified a lead health unit and lead applicants for each of the projects:

Team	Lead Health Unit	Lead Applicant
Built Environment	Kingston, Frontenac and Lennox & Addington Public Health	Paul Belanger, Manager GIS Services & Daphne Mayer, Research Associate
Unsafe Behaviours	Oxford County Public Health and Emergency Services	Victoria Leck, Youth Engagement Coordinator
Parenting	Niagara Regional Public Health	James Macintosh, SHARE Unit, Central Support, Information and Surveillance
Falls	Oxford County Public Health and Emergency Services	Cathy Dykeman, Public Health Nurse, Halton Region Health Department
RRFSS	Durham Region Health Department	Janet Phillips, Epidemiologist

These five project proposals have been received by Public Health Ontario for further processing. A sixth collaborative team focused on development of a project proposal in the subject area of food, specifically with the purpose of exploring how to build, promote and evaluate food skills in a wide range of community contexts. This LDCP was not submitted, as no health unit has yet committed to participate as the lead, one of the criteria for funding eligibility. If your health unit is interested in leading this research project, or you have questions about the other LDCP projects, please contact LDCP@oahpp.ca.

SPEP resources and workshop

The Student Education and Preceptorship (SPEP) Network has been busy this summer working on preparing materials to be included in a SPEP Resource Library that will be launched this fall on the Public Health Ontario website. Along with the launch of the resource library, members of the SPEP Network will be hosting workshops for health units entitled, “Public Health and the Text Generation”. The workshops will be held at six health unit sites across Ontario. Check the [workshop flyer](#) for more information and registration details.

Developing an inventory of public health activities and peer experts

Since March 2011, The Ontario Public Health Association (OPHA) and the Association of Local Public Health Agencies (alPHA) have been working to develop and design an inventory of public health activities and peer experts under the guidance of a 12-member Project Reference Group (PRG). It is intended that the inventory will become a useful knowledge exchange tool for Ontario public health professionals.

For the activities piece, an inventory framework and a data collection tool has been developed and piloted. Province-wide data collection of current public health activities will occur by September. All public health units in Ontario will receive an information package that will facilitate the data collection process. In addition, three focus groups are also being conducted during this period to gather feedback about the functionality and maintenance of this piece.

For the peer expertise piece, key informant interviews have been conducted to gather ideas about framework options and effective and efficient methods to gather peer expert information. A framework and data collection process is currently in the planning stages.

For more information about the inventory and its upcoming activities, contact Julie Wong jwong@opha.on.ca or Linda Stewart Linda@alphaweb.org.

Update on ethics discussion paper

A [discussion paper](#) describing the conceptual framework for guiding the ethical review of public health projects was released for review and feedback in June. Thank you to the many groups and individuals who provided comments. We are now analyzing the feedback and revising the paper. The revised version will be posted on our website later this fall. If you have any questions about this paper or the process, please contact nancy.ondrusek@oahpp.ca.

Contact us

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