

**DEMENTIA CARE NETWORK ALGOMA
STEERING COMMITTEE**

Tuesday, December 9, 2003
10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon

Alzheimer Society of Sault Ste. Marie and Algoma District
633 Albert St. E.
Sault Ste. Marie, ON

MEETING SUMMARY

Present:	Paula Sirie	Regrets:	Duane Buchanen
	Harold Clayton		Barb Forest
	Phyllis Youmans		Hazel Yakich
	Susan Van Atte		Sharon Swain
	Cynthia Farquhar		Gayle Cazalet
	Arlene Gear		Barbara DelPaggio
	Carolyn Cybulski		Dr. James Chau
			Shelley McEachern
			Linda Toner, MOH

1. Arlene welcomed members and opened the meeting.
2. Carolyn provided an update of the progress on the Dementia Network Website. The Education Committee is overseeing this project. Chris Benka, a local website expert, has been retained to develop and customize the template received from the Toronto Dementia Network, for a fee of \$2,625. We will be prepaying the fees for the .org address and the website hosting for 3 years in order to take advantage of the dementia network funding which ceases after March 31, 2004.
3. Carolyn provided a written financial update. After all anticipated expenses have been paid, there will be a surplus of \$800 which will be spent on remaining travel costs and networking costs. The question arose of how to pay for the travel costs of consumers/family members who are part of the Dementia Network and who travel in from the District. Possibilities discussed included membership fees, increased use of teleconference, and car-pooling. It was decided that there will probably be four meetings a year (unless specific issues arise that require more frequent meetings e.g. website project) and that we can plan for 2 meetings to be face-to-face and 2 meetings to be by teleconference with District members. It was also discussed that one meeting per year could be held in Elliot Lake, with Sault members travelling together.
4. Arlene handed out NODAC brochures to members, and then gave an update on the Education Working Group. Three meetings have been held. Linda Sullivan and Duane Buchanen are co-chairs. The goal is to address dementia-specific education issues. This group will be responsible for advising on the website. The group has identified physician education as a gap, and is investigating possible ways to address e.g. physician newsletter, office visits, etc. Cynthia informed the group about the Northern Ontario virtual library (www.novl.ca).

5. Carolyn updated members on the Client Services Working Group and the Care Map Project. Care maps for Sault Ste. Marie and Central Algoma were distributed in August. North and East Algoma Care Maps are being distributed now. There is approximately \$1,400 left in funding from the Ministry of Citizenship, and permission has been received to use it to translate the Care Maps into French. Permission also received to delay completion of the project until the end of February to allow for the translation and printing of the French posters for East and North Algoma.
6. Arlene reviewed the results of the priority-setting exercise done at the last meeting. Members felt that there were some issues that the Network could take an advocacy role on. Members were requested to review the list in more depth and to come to the next meeting with thoughts of which issues to go forward on.
7. Round table Reports:
 - Paula – Group Health in the midst of implementing privacy policy as legislated by PIPEDA
 - Harold – Lynn Halliday, Dr. Chau, and Harold's service will be commencing a two-year research study in January on polypharmacy in individuals with dementia. It will involve a nursing, medical, and pharmacy assessment, and will look at the amount of medication being prescribed.
 - Susan – The DHC is currently engaged in a Primary Care Study with a random public survey underway regarding access to primary care in the ADMS area - a firm from Sudbury doing a telephone survey. Also, the Long-term Care Committee will be conducting a Needs Assessment on 8 specific LTC services including Adult Day Services and Caregiver respite. The Algoma LTC Committee is also revisiting supportive housing and the relationship between this service and the need for additional LTC beds.
 - Cynthia – Huron Lodge is seeing several cases of people with dementia living at high risk in their off-site Supportive Housing program. Discussion ensued.
 - Carolyn – The Alzheimer Education Conference will be held March 29, 2004. Brochures will be sent out in the new year. Also, the Alzheimer Society, in conjunction with Sault Police Services, is attempting to organize a meeting for long-term care residences to discuss search and rescue practices for missing residents. Letters to be sent out when details confirmed.
 - Arlene – Arlene will be participating in the follow-up meeting to the provincial dementia network workshop and will report back to the group on the recommendations that were made. Also, 18 LTCF in the north have expressed an interest in participating in 5 day spring training session. Date and location TBA.
8. Next meeting date: Tuesday March 9, 2004 at 10:00 a.m. at the Alzheimer Society office.
Meeting adjourned at 12:10 p.m.