



DEMENTIA CARE NETWORK ALGOMA STEERING COMMITTEE

Tuesday, February 17, 2009
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:

Duane Buchanen
Sharon Swain
Barb Forest
Arlene Gear
Hazel Yakich
Carolyn Cybulski

1. All members were welcomed. Members were informed that S. Hamel-Laford has resigned from the committee due to work commitments.
2. B. Forest discussed the At Risk Driver Program, which could be a helpful program for people with dementia who continue to drive despite having their licenses revoked. Discussion ensued regarding challenges of dealing with driving issues and dementia.
Action:
 - a. C. Cybulski will contact Durham Alzheimer Society chapter (who initiated the program) to obtain feedback and statistics on the program.
 - b. B. Forest and C. Cybulski will attempt to secure a meeting with deputy chief of police to discuss the program.
3. C. Cybulski reviewed the booklet "What's Right For Me". The booklet will not be reproduced by the government. The Dementia Network may decide to take further action on this at a later time (eg., produce a localized version of the booklet), but no action to be taken at this time due to lack of resources.
4. A. Gear reviewed recent education initiatives:
 - \$ Pfizer dementia education session by Lisa Bourcier-Martin: Well-attended and well-received. Members agreed that having education sessions occasionally replace steering committee meetings would be beneficial.
 - \$ Webcast with Dr. Schulman presented by the NE Dementia Network Coalition: This webcast was on dementia assessment and feedback was positive. Several more education sessions are being planned.
 - \$ GPA: Funding was received from the MOHLTC to conduct three sessions for community agencies before March 31. To date, only two sessions have

been booked based on interest/ability of community agencies. S. Swain indicated interest.

- Action: C. Cybulski will ask Education Coordinator C. Randell to make contact with S. Swain.

\$ Pan Northern Ontario Geriatric Care Conference: Several partners are included in this biennial conference including NOSM. To be held in SSM on Sept. 30, Oct. 1, and Oct. 2. Survey has been sent to members.

5. C. Cybulski requested suggestions regarding advocacy activities for the steering committee. Elder abuse needs were discussed.

Action: C. Cybulski to contact Detective Rains or Monto to see if they would be willing to attend next meeting to clarify procedure for suspected abuse.

6. Round table reports:

\$ Seniors Mental Health is conducting a LTC survey to determine geriatric mental health needs in long-term care homes.

\$ Red Cross Community Health Services is hoping to receive Aging at Home funding to start a Supportive Housing program in four downtown senior apartment buildings. Red Cross is experiencing an extreme shortage of PSWs and now does the training in-house in an attempt to meet the need.

\$ VON has a new manager – Ilena Clark. Bereavement support groups have begun and are going well. There are 10 active clients attending day program.

\$ Alzheimer Society's education conference is March 6. There are fewer participants this year, possibly due to worker shortages or an overall downward trend in full-day education events.

7. Next meeting: Tuesday, June 2, 2009 at 10:00.