



DEMENTIA CARE NETWORK ALGOMA STEERING COMMITTEE

Thursday, June 16, 2005
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
Duane Buchanen
Sharon Swain
Barb Forest
Hazel Yakich
Cheryl Hankard
Carolyn Cybulski

1. Meeting called to order at 10:00 a.m. Cheryl Hankard was welcomed as the representative from the North Shore Tribal Council, in place of Gayle Cazalet.
2. Statistics for the Algoma Dementia Network website were reviewed. The number of visits to the site has increased markedly since the key word search function was corrected. All members are asked to check their agency's information on the website to ensure that it remains up to date. Website is located at www.dementiaalgoma.org.
3. The response to the Network's letter to Deputy Minister George Zegarac was reviewed. The coordinator of the Alzheimer Strategy Transition Project responded by saying that two task forces on dementia education were being struck, and that we may be asked to provide further information. The two task forces are: "Developing a framework for dementia education" and "PRCs' standards of skill and knowledge in LTC and community".
4. Members discussed the recent funding from the Alzheimer Strategy Transition for the PSW newsletter. Three issues a year for three years will be produced and distributed to PSWs in the community and long-term care homes. The Education Working Group has taken responsibility for this project. The first issue is almost completed and will be distributed in August with a "name the newsletter" feature. The newsletter will be available on our website, and the website will also have an area for monitoring satisfaction with the newsletter, so that ongoing evaluation is possible. Copies of the newsletter will also be made available to PSWs at the North Shore Tribal Council.
5. Carolyn has just recently received a response from the Accessibility Committee regarding our Network's concerns about the ParaBus. Specifically, these concerns were that attendants are required to pay an additional fare to travel with someone with

dementia, and also that in order to be eligible to use the ParaBus, the disabled person must be unable to walk 175 meters or more. Members discussed the unique needs of the individual with dementia which may preclude them from using other forms of transit. Carolyn will contact the chair of the committee to provide him with further information on the needs of people with dementia.

6. The development of the Local Health Integration Networks (LHINs) was discussed. The rumour is that the LHIN office will be located in North Bay, although this has not been officially announced. The chair and two board members have been announced. Michael D'Angelo from SSM has been appointed to the board. It is anticipated that three other board members and the CEOs will be announced on June 21. CEOs will begin their work in September, with the expectation that the LHINs will be fully mature (ie make all funding allocations) by the 2007-2008 fiscal year. It was decided that after the CEOs are in place, the Dementia Network may want to contact the chair to advise him/her of the activities this group has undertaken and the partners that are involved. It was also discussed whether or not Dementia Networks across the Northeast should be making some collaborative efforts to present a stronger voice to the LHIN. It was suggested that perhaps a nursing student would be able to work on collating the various projects, activities, and resources that have been developed by the networks in the northeast. Carolyn will discuss this with her colleagues in the northeast who are all highly involved in their respective networks.

7. Membership was reviewed. According to the terms of reference, we are looking to recruit representatives from long-term care facilities and hospitals. Carolyn will approach the Directors of Care group to see if anyone can be recruited from facilities, and will also contact Sue Hamel-LaFord at the hospital who manages the Complex Continuing Care unit. If the hospital does not feel they have a fit with the Dementia Network, the committee may wish to remove hospitals from its list of desired membership in the terms of reference.

8. Round table reports:

Hazel:

- VON is working on accreditation; disaster plans being completed.
- Financial component is becoming more centralized – moving to Peel.
- A full-time on-site Branch Manager for SSM is being hired (as opposed to having one manager for both the SSM and Sudbury branches).

Barb:

- Dr. Burhan is finishing up a 3-month rotation in SSM; he is moving to Ottawa but will return to SSM 2 days per month.
- There is a conference in September dealing with best practices in seniors' mental health (e.g. protocols for dealing with delirium, depression, etc.). SMH will try to send one representative.

Cheryl:

- Cheryl works with the managers in the long-term care programs on the following reserves: Garden River, Mississauga, Serpent River, Sagamuk, and Whitefish Island.
- Looking for funding for a weekend conference for PSWs.

Paula:

- Two new GPs working 27.5 hours per week each will be starting soon.
- At least one other GP is retiring within the next few months.

Duane:

- Discussed issues related to overuse of medication in long-term care homes.

Carolyn:

- Alzheimer Society recently completed a strategic plan which aims to increase service to the district.
- Hope to host an educational conference in Wawa in partnership with Lundbeck (makers of Ebixa) and other community partners.
- Still working to open a satellite office in Elliot, using existing resources.

9. Next meeting date and location: **Tuesday, September 13, 2005 at the Alzheimer Society office**. District agencies will be asked if they wish to join by teleconference.

10. Meeting adjourned at 11:25 a.m.