



DEMENTIA CARE NETWORK ALGOMA STEERING COMMITTEE

Tuesday, June 16, 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
Barb Forest
Arlene Gear
Hazel Yakich
Harold Clayton
Carolyn Cybulski
Amy Bird – Alzheimer Society (guest)
Vicki Monto – SSM Police Services (guest)

1. All members were welcomed and introductions were made.
2. Members discussed the issue of elder abuse within Algoma District. There is currently an Elder Abuse Prevention Committee in SSM, of which Amy Bird and Vicki Monto are members. A lack of resources has limited the activity of this committee. H. Clayton discussed the Seniors' Issues Officer in Elliot Lake which provides a liaison between elderly citizens and police services (OPP). V. Monto stated that she and Detective Rains receive a lot of calls about elder abuse issues, primarily financial abuse. Resolution is driven by the victim's wishes; i.e., whether or not to pursue charges. Officers will make referrals to other agencies. Neglect is a police issue and can be reported to police. Reports can be made confidentially to police or anonymously through Crime Stoppers. Officers attend the home in plain clothes and unmarked vehicles. The Elder Abuse Intervention flow chart was reviewed and considered still accurate. SSM Police Services continues to attempt to educate public about the police role in this issue.
3. B. Forest and C. Cybulski reviewed the At Risk Driver Program that is currently being proposed to the SSM Police Services. A meeting took place on June 10 with Sgt. Trudeau and Cst. Rossetto to discuss the proposal. Next step is to meet with Chief or designate. If the program is approved, it would be a program of the Dementia Network and would be jointly administered by the SSM Police Services and the Alzheimer Society. Agencies that provide services to people with dementia would receive training on the program.
4. A. Gear reviewed education initiatives: GPA, PSW newsletters, and a Geriatric Assessor course that Arlene is currently taking.

5. C. Cybulski discussed the results from the questionnaire on public policy issues that was distributed to Alzheimer Society clients in February/March.

- Lack of family doctor.
- Banking services – more senior-friendly. Action: H. Yakich will approach banking institution in an effort to find an banking representative to attend next meeting.
- Hospital rooms co-ed.
- Medical staff requiring more dementia education.
- Increased knowledge of drug interactions by health care personnel. Action: Invite a pharmacist to future meeting.

6. Members discussed the new North East Specialized Geriatric Services, headed by Dr. Joanne Clarke, Geriatrician. Service is for the entire northeast and so will be geared for more complex cases. A physician referral is required. Assessments will be done by telemedicine. Kim Rossi, program coordinator, has requested to attend an upcoming DN meeting to increase awareness about the program. Members agreed that this could be combined with members of the Education Committee. Action: C. Randell (chair of the Education Committee) will investigate possibility of joint meeting with Kim Rossi as guest.

7. C. Cybulski reported on the teleconference meeting she attended of the Ontario Dementia Network. This is a new provincial group that is being championed by Dr. Dalziel and Dr. LeClair. The purpose is to provide leadership to regional Dementia Networks and advocate for dementia networks at the provincial level.

8. Round table reports:

- VON – Adult Day Program plans to move locations when lease is up in October. Numbers of participants were up but recently there have been a number of discharges.
- SSM Seniors' Mental Health – Continues to receive services of a geriatric psychiatrist 2 days per month (Dr. Burhan), with Dr. Byers visiting approximately 3 times per year.
- North Shore Seniors' Mental Health – There are lots of high risk clients being seen in the community. Approximately half of the caseload is located in Thessalon. The Family Health Team Nurse Practitioner has relocated and may not be replaced.

9. Next meeting: Wednesday, October 28, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. (to coincide with Pan Northern Geriatric Care Conference that starts at 1:00).

Meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.