



DEMENTIA CARE NETWORK ALGOMA STEERING COMMITTEE

Tuesday, March 22, 2005

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

MEETING SUMMARY

Present: Paula Sirie
Hazel Yakich
Sharon Swain
Rhonda Chennette
Duane Buchanen
Carolyn Cybulski

1. Carolyn called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.
2. Website stats were reviewed. It was noted that visits to the site have increased markedly since the search problem was rectified.
3. Activities of the Education Committee were reviewed. The Committee's main priority is to make recommendations regarding dementia education in post-secondary programs. The Committee also continues to send out Physician Newsletters three times per year.
4. Correspondence from the Dementia Network of Ottawa (DNO) was discussed. DNO sent a letter to the Assistant Deputy Minister requesting that a study be undertaken to address the unique needs of dementia residents in long-term care facilities. Specifically, DNO stated that standards should be developed for models of care for dementia residents, mandatory levels of dementia training for staff, hiring and screening practices, etc. Members of the committee agreed that our Network should write a letter of support for this endeavour. Carolyn will follow up with a member of DNO to ensure that the letter of support will still be beneficial, and if so, will write it.
5. Members discussed the opportunity to apply for dementia network funding related to educational initiatives. After much discussion and consideration, members felt that the most beneficial strategy to get education out to field staff (primarily PSWs) would be to create and distribute a PSW newsletter that addressed every day concerns that PSWs have when caring for clients with dementia. It could be distributed to both community and facility based PSWs, as well as caregivers and students. Costs to undertake this initiative would include staff preparation time, printing, and distribution. Carolyn will write the proposal, which is due by March 31, 2005.
6. Carolyn presented the summary of responses to the dementia network questionnaire. 41 letters were sent out, and 7 responses were received. When asked

what activities the Dementia Network should be focussing on in the next year, themes mostly revolved around staff education.

7. Round table reports:

- Paula: Dr. Dalziel and Dr. Sandra Black will both be presenting to physicians within the next month.
- Sharon: Funding has been received from MOHLTC for mental health training for 15 Red Cross workers and 15 We Care workers. The course will be comprised of 45 hours of theory and some field placement.
- Rhonda: No concrete news on LHINs and how CCACs will be affected.
- Hazel: The new VON caregiver support group is underway, with 4 people attending in March. VON is having a garage sale on May 14.
- Carolyn: The Alzheimer Society recently conducted a strategic planning session, and one goal for the coming year is to conduct a caregiver retreat. The Alzheimer Society may ask the Client Services Working Group to assist in the planning and development of this event.

8. Next meeting date: Thursday, June 16, 2005 at 10:00 a.m. at the Alzheimer Society office.

9. Meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.