

**DEMENTIA CARE NETWORK ALGOMA
STEERING COMMITTEE**

Tuesday, May 11, 2004
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:	Harold Clayton
	Duane Buchanen		Phyllis Youmans
	Barb Forest		Cynthia Farquhar
	Susan Van Atte		Dr. James Chau
	Hazel Yakich		Gayle Cazalet
	Arlene Gear		Barbara DelPaggio
	Carolyn Cybulski		
	Sharon Swain		

1. Arlene opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.
2. Carolyn reviewed the Dementia Network Funding Claim Form. All monies had to be spent by March 31, 2004. Total expenditures were \$4,918.60. Dollars were primarily spent on the website. There is no additional funding to cover any expenses such as travel. Discussed the possibility of rotating meetings between Sault Ste. Marie and Elliot Lake.
Website is now operational; as of May 11, 2004, there have been 15,462 hits and 347 individual users.
3. Arlene provided an update from Looking to the Future workshop held on April 16 and 17. 160 people attended the workshop which had poster presentations, concurrent sessions, and open space sessions. Arlene is hoping to establish PIECES support groups in our area. She circulated a table of strategies for the future to sustain a number of the initiatives, including a number of new committees and groups. Susan King, Ministry Coordinator, has been given one more year to support activities. Anyone wishing a copy of the summary report, please contact Carolyn.
4. Carolyn circulated the minutes from the Sudbury-Manitoulin Dementia Network so that members could see what other groups are doing. This group, as well as the Ottawa Dementia Network, have developed logos for their networks, and Carolyn wondered if there was interest in developing a logo for Algoma. Carolyn will approach Sault College, Algoma University, and White Mountain Academy of the Arts in Elliot Lake to see if there is any interest among the post-secondary arts programs. Alternatively, high schools, especially CASS, could be approached.
5. Duane provided an update on the physician newsletter project of the Education Committee. Duane is trying to revise Ottawa's newsletter for use in Algoma.

Some challenges were noted in formatting from the original. This will go out in hard copy to all Algoma physicians and will also be on the website. Distribution of hard copies will primarily be through Group Health Centre, and mailed to physicians not affiliated with GHC and to those in the district.

6. Members discussed the creation of an action plan for future activities. The following decisions were made:
 - a. Carolyn will forward a letter and report to Linda Toner regarding the priorities that were established by this committee, omitting the draft table. CCAC will be copied on the letter and report.
 - b. Dementia education for crisis workers – this will be deferred to the Education Committee.
 - c. Recruitment of geriatric psychiatrist – Barb will find out who the contact is, and what the procedure should be to make the need known to the physician recruitment committee.
 - d. CCAC referrals to community services – Carolyn will invite Barb DelPaggio or designate to the next meeting so that the process can be explained to members. We will also request if it's possible for this committee to be copied on CCAC reports re: numbers of referrals made.
 - e. Sault Ste. Marie Transit Services – Carolyn will contact the city to see if a meeting can be arranged between transit decision-makers and several committee members to educate them about the nature of Alzheimer Disease and the current restrictions to ParaBus service. Cost of ParaBus is also a concern, as people with dementia would always require a companion which increases the cost markedly. Hazel informed the group about "Gateway to Mobility" – a private service with a lift van – doesn't charge for attendant and provides door-to-door service rather than curb-to-curb as ParaBus does.
 - f. North Algoma transportation issues – No separate letter to the Ministry is required since this need is identified in the Priorities document.
 - g. List of lawyers specializing in POA and capacity issues – No action to be taken on this since the group felt that most lawyers do this and kits are available.
 - h. Dental care for people with dementia will be added to list of gaps.

7. Round table reports:
 - Hazel (VON Algoma)
 - VON is celebrating 50 years in Algoma District this year
 - footcare and wellness clinics being promoted
 - display in Mall this weekend
 - attempting to recruit more volunteers for Adult Day Program
 - able to stay until September and perhaps longer at FJ Davey Home but are looking for new facilities
 - Barb (Seniors Mental Health Services)
 - referrals are up so there is now a 4 week waiting time
 - concern that travel to the District may be reduced
 - Carolyn (Alzheimer Society)
 - Alzheimer Society is working with police services and LTC facilities re: search practices; a mock search was done at the Ontario Finnish Resthome Association – good learning experience; manual and education sessions for facilities will soon be available

- Duane (family member)
 - raised concerns about re-infections in LTC facilities in flu season – concern with in-house infection control practices and sees little value in closing homes
 - Sharon (Community Health Services Canadian Red Cross)
 - 3 supervisors have completed part 1 of U-First training
 - experiencing service reductions (due to funding) and staff retention issues as a result
 - working on a supporting housing proposal to be submitted to the Ministry by month's end
 - Susan (ACMS District Health Council)
 - currently conducting community support services needs assessment
 - Ministry has requested participation in a project to assess the appropriate mix of LTC services in the North
8. Next meeting: Tuesday, June 29, 2004 at 10:00 at the Alzheimer Society in Sault Ste. Marie. Will target Elliot Lake for September meeting.
9. Adjournment: 12 noon.