



## **DEMENTIA CARE NETWORK ALGOMA STEERING COMMITTEE**

Wednesday, May 21, 2008  
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:**

Arlene Gear, PRC  
Patty Greve  
Duane Buchanan  
Sharon Swain, Canadian Red Cross Community Health Services  
Harold Clayton, Seniors Mental Health, Elliot Lake  
Barb Forest, Seniors Mental Health, SSM  
Cynthia Farquhar, Huron Lodge  
Carolyn Cybulski, Alzheimer Society

**Meeting Summary:**

1. Welcome and introductions made.
2. Carolyn provided information from the NE Dementia Network Coalition. The group consists of the co-chairs from the 6 DNs in the North East LHIN. The strategic plan has been completed and consists of 3 strategic directions:
  - Organizational cohesiveness
  - Relationships with key stakeholders
  - Education and awarenessLinda Sullivan, Education Coordinator for the Alzheimer Society (SSM/ Algoma) had been hired by the Coalition on a temporary part time basis to assist in carrying out the strategies and tactics identified to meet the objectives in the strategic plan. Since Linda's resignation from the Society, the Coalition has been looking for a replacement to complete the work on the plan. The Education Coordinator in Timmins has expressed an interest and may be willing to take on the role.
3. A learning needs survey developed by the Coalition was distributed. The goal is to determine common learning needs and address them in some fashion (e.g., webcasts, videoconferences) as a region. Members are requested to complete and return back to the Alzheimer Society at 256-6777 who will compile the results and send one response to the Coalition.
4. Sharon, Barb, and Carolyn provided an update on the Seniors' Summit held in March 2008 at the Holiday Inn in SSM. Concerns expressed that participants were asked to choose a model without having enough information about them. Of interest for our group was the presentation on

Regional Geriatric Programs (RGPs). The North East is apparently getting a RGP which will be under the direction of a new geriatrician who is hopefully coming soon to Sudbury.

5. Duane provided an update on the Education Committee. The continued distribution of the Physician Newsletter was discussed. The Education Committee has received no feedback from physicians on this resource, despite soliciting it, and so is questioning whether or not it is useful. It is felt that the newsletter has some excellent information in it that would be relevant for other health professionals and so should be continued. The following suggestions were made for Duane to pass on to Education Committee:
  - Keep the title (Physicians' Newsletter) but add a subtitle: "for Healthcare Professionals"
  - Carolyn to explore with the DN webmaster why our website monthly activity reports do not include data for hits to the physician or PSW newsletter
  - Potential means of distribution (to both physicians and other health care professionals):
    - physician educational dinners provided by pharmaceutical companies – ask the pharmaceutical reps if a member of the Education Committee can do a short presentation to physicians on the newsletter to ensure that they are aware of it
    - send to nurses at long-term care homes
    - leave in staff lounges at hospital
    - provide copies to HR departments so they can insert in pay stubs of nursing staff\*\*
    - leave in doctor's lounge in OR (Elliot Lake)
    - Sault College nursing program (BScN and RPN)\*\*
    - CCAC
    - forward to Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario (RNAO) – local chapter president
    - forward to Northern Ontario School of Medicine
6. Members discussed partnering/awareness opportunities for the DN for the coming year. Projects discussed:
  - "What's Right For Me" pamphlet – formerly produced by MOH – no longer in production. It has a great deal of good information relevant to people who are beginning to consider housing options. DN could consider seeking a grant to reproduce a similar document specific to Algoma or the North East.
  - Seniors' health fair/trade show – also the possibility of adding in workshops and appreciation events for staff. Could consider doing this for next year's Seniors' Month (June 2009). Also could consider seeking a New Horizons grant for this, but must be led by seniors for seniors. Patty and Carolyn will speak further on this topic to develop the idea further and bring back to the meeting in September.
7. Ideas for guest speakers were discussed. Members are encouraged to bring forward suggestions for guest speakers. Some ideas discussed were:
  - GEM nurse at SAH
  - LHIN representative
  - Pharmaceutical representative
8. Self-learning packages for front-line staff – not discussed.

9. LHIN survey re: Aging at Home – Question #1 was discussed (What should be done to help seniors stay in their homes longer?) and the following responses were provided:
- Re-implement homemaker services (light housekeeping, laundry, meals, shopping) – with consistent access – not just provided for clients who participate in certain programs such as supportive housing
  - Increase community supports such as Meals on Wheels, Adult Day Programs, bathing programs
  - Co-payment options – client pays portion of homemaking service – rest is funded by MOHLTC – could be geared to income
  - Escort programs to assist seniors to get to appointments, etc.
  - Medication reminders
  - Respite for families
- Arlene to collate responses from this committee and the Education Committee and forward on to the LHIN.
10. Harold Clayton raised a concern about the telemedicine site at St. Joseph's Hospital in Elliot Lake. There is a disagreement between the hospital and the Ministry regarding whose responsibility it is to pay for the telemedicine coordinator, and so the site is not currently operational. Harold believes that this is impacting his clients with dementia since they sometimes require consultations via telemedicine. Harold requested that a letter be sent to the Ministry on behalf of the DN supporting the hospital's position that the Ministry provide funding for the coordinator position. Members felt that since one of the DN's roles is advocacy on behalf of dementia clients, a letter of support for telemedicine services in general (not specific to St. Joseph's hospital situation) would be an appropriate activity. Harold will forward a template letter to Carolyn for review by members.
11. Meeting adjourned at 12:00 noon. Next meeting scheduled for **Wednesday, September 17, 2008 at 10:00 a.m.**