



## DEMENTIA CARE NETWORK ALGOMA STEERING COMMITTEE

Tuesday, September 19, 2006  
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:

Cynthia Farquhar	-	Huron Lodge
Hazel Yakich	-	VON
Paula Sirie	-	Group Health Centre
Arlene Gear	-	PRC
Barb Forest	-	Seniors Mental Health
Sharon Swain	-	Canadian Red Cross Community Health Services
Carolyn Cybulski	-	Alzheimer Society
Amy Bird	-	Alzheimer Society (guest)

1. Welcome and introductions made.
2. Revised business case to the LHIN has been reviewed by the 6 Dementia Networks (DNs) in the Northeast and it is close to being a final version. Suggestions made today include identifying staff shortages and physician shortages as gaps. We recommend that the paper be presented in person to the LHIN by a small delegation of DN representatives from the Northeast. Northeast group will be discussing this at a teleconference in June.
3. A regional DN group has formed that is comprised of the chairs/co-chairs of the 6 DNs in the Northeast LHIN. Currently Arlene and Carolyn represent the Algoma Dementia Care Network, but any other member is welcome to be the representative. A teleconference is scheduled in June to discuss the following:
  - a. Disposition of business case
  - b. Plans for the \$20,000 funding received last fiscal year
  - c. Provincial DN group.The group will also be holding a strategic planning session in October to further develop integration efforts among our 6 DNs.  
Algoma DN members discussed possible uses of the \$20,000 funding, including:
  - a. travel costs for regional DN group
  - b. web cam costs to improve communication (in addition to other possible strategies to enhance communication)
  - c. newsletter
  - d. media/promotion.
4. Carolyn reported on the provincial DN meeting that was held on May 16. Representatives from the DNs in the 14 LHINs met in an information-sharing forum that was well-received by all participants. The decision was made to continue with this provincial DN group,

primarily for information sharing, with meetings to occur twice per year, mostly by teleconference. Our northeast LHIN DNs will need to decide who our representative will be.

5. Carolyn reported on the ALC Task Force, on which she represents the community support services sector. The task force was created to come up with solutions to ALC crisis at SAH; i.e., how to assist people out of ALC beds at SAH, and how to prevent unnecessary admissions to long-term care homes. Much of the discussion has focussed around enhancing community supports (e.g., supportive housing) and increasing use of community services. Members are encouraged to provide Carolyn with any information that might be of help in this issue. Carolyn will also forward minutes of the ALC task force meetings to community transfer payment agency contacts provided by the LHIN. There is also an ALC Summit in Sudbury in June being hosted by the LHIN that will bring together the task forces from SSM, Timmins, Sudbury, and North Bay.
6. Roundtable:
  - Arlene: U-First funding is extended to 2008.
  - Cynthia: Huron Lodge is looking at levels of care in their dementia care unit. Unit allows for aging in place which often results in high care levels as residents' dementias progress.
  - Barb: SMH remains 1 FTE short as one staff member is away. SMH looking at options regarding how best to use .4 FTE funding. MD shortage is affecting SMH, since without a family doctor, there is no one to follow up on treatment recommendations.
  - Paula: Dr. Ianni taking a sabbatical. MD shortage is affecting referrals. Dr. Molloy is visiting SSM tomorrow – seeing 2 patients and doing a presentation.
  - Hazel: Lisa Rowlinson has been hired as the new branch manager for VON. Accreditation process is underway. Garage sale fundraiser taking place June 2.
  - Sharon: CCAC now can provide up to 160 hrs./month of homemaking service for one month. Red Cross is prepared for the increased demand in service but has not seen many requests as yet. Currently recruiting for supervisor in Elliot Lake.
  - Carolyn: Alzheimer Society Annual General Meeting taking place on Friday June 8 11:30 to 1:30. Guest speaker is Amanda Wootton, who is the young woman featured several years ago on CBC's "The Nature of Things", as she was diagnosed with having the Alzheimer gene when she was in her early 20s. There is a \$5 cost for lunch and it is taking place at the Casino. Contact Carolyn if you are interested in attending.
7. Next meeting: Wednesday, September 19, 2007 at 10:00 a.m. at the Alzheimer Society.
8. Meeting adjourned at 12:05 p.m.