



DEMENTIA CARE NETWORK ALGOMA STEERING COMMITTEE

Tuesday, September 13, 2005
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 – Group Health Centre
Sharon Swain - Community Health Services, Canadian Red Cross
Phyllis Youmans - Caregiver
Barb Forest – Seniors Mental Health
Hazel Yakich – VON Algoma
Arlene Gear – Psychogeriatric Resource Consultant
Carolyn Cybulski – Alzheimer Society
Cheryl Hankard – North Shore Tribal Council
Jim Dalgliesh – Community Care Access Centre
Sue Hamel-Laford – Sault Area Hospital

1. Arlene welcomed new committee members to the Dementia Network Steering Committee including Jim Dalgliesh and Sue Hamel-Laford. It was noted that there are two other new members who were unable to attend this meeting due to other commitments.
2. The history of the Dementia Care Network Algoma was presented by Arlene Gear from 1999 to present. Our local Network started in 2002 following a community forum. The Algoma group includes a Steering Committee, Client Services Working Group, and the Education Committee. Although the 5-year Alzheimer Strategy is completed, there are still some funds to assist with some projects. Carolyn reviewed the projects that have been completed by the Network.
3. Carolyn distributed website statistics to members. The Alzheimer Society has been maintaining the website. A Nursing student will be performing information updates over the next 2 months.
4. Carolyn provided an overview of the Dementia Network projects currently underway:
 - a. PSW Newsletter: First edition distributed in August to front line staff in community and facilities. Will be distributed three times per year. Positive feedback brought forward.
 - b. Compilation of Dementia Network resources across the Northeast: A nursing student will contact other dementia networks across the

northeast to collect information about their projects. This information can be provided to the LHINs. Suggestion made to post this information on the website.

5. No response was received to Carolyn's last correspondence with the Chair of the Accessibility Committee regarding ParaBus use for people with dementia. It was suggested that it might be helpful to make a presentation on dementia to the Accessibility Committee, or invite the Chair and the Supervisor to a Dementia Network meeting. Carolyn will contact Tracey Roetman, Accessibility Supervisor, and Gerald Taylor, Chair of the Accessibility Committee, to see which they prefer. Discussion ensued about the possibility of giving them some parameters for use of ParaBus (e.g. transport to Day Programs) or attempting to provide them with some numbers of how many people might require this service.

Elliot Lake transportation services were reviewed. The Handi-Lift typically provides service to the physically disabled. Dementia clients would be more likely to use a taxi service. First Nations individuals use medical vans at present.

6. LHIN CEOs and 3 board members have been appointed. CEOs were scheduled to begin on August 22, 2005. First tasks are collecting demographic data. Office space is located in North Bay for the next five years. Discussion revolved around extending an invitation to the LHIN CEO or a board member to attend a dementia network meeting. Carolyn will make the contact.

Jim stated that regionalization of services might be encouraged by the LHIN. Possible impact to ACCAC was discussed – announcements by the Ministry regarding CCAC restructuring may be announced in October. Other areas which might be impacted include hospitals and long-term care facilities.

7. Respite services were discussed, particularly the CCAC requirement that clients must have personal care needs to access respite services. Recently the CCAC has made the decision to limit respite to those clients who require 24-hour a day supervision. CCAC has received a 7% increase in base funding, well below the 12% which was anticipated; therefore is having to consider cost-cutting measures. Client demand has increased by 25% for homemaking and 22% for nursing. Issues regarding provision of personal care by caregiver vs. worker were discussed. What constitutes "personal care" has been defined in legislation followed by CCAC. Personal care is defined as bathing, feeding, getting in/out of bed. Personal care currently does not include psychological/mental health needs. Jim will look into the CCACs policy on respite, specifically whether or not the client is eligible for respite if the caregiver is assisting with personal care.

8. Round table reports:

- a. Cheryl: North Shore Tribal Council has received funding for an educational retreat for PSWs. It will take place in SSM for 40-50

- participants. She will look into whether or not workers from other agencies can participate.
- b. Hazel: New full-time branch manager has been hired for VON. Her name is Vanessa Williams.
 - c. Sue: Long-term care lecture series for complex continuing care is ongoing at SAH. Sue also provided an overview of her unit.
 - d. Jim: Crisis 1A was declared by the MOH due to bed crisis. Anyone waiting for placement in SAH gets priority unless an individual in the community is considered at crisis level. This will be in place until Oct. 19. Jim also discussed the reorganization at CCAC in light of Rhonda's departure. This position has not been filled as CCAC awaits announcement of CCAC restructuring. There are now 5 managers. The HR manager has moved to SAH/GHC.
 - e. Sharon: Red Cross is working on accreditation at both the SSM and Sudbury branches. They are also working on a Violence module for workers, and other self-directed learning packages.
 - f. Barb: SMHS maintains a Geriatric Psychiatrist 2 days per month. Waiting list to be seen is a couple of weeks. Information on the Canadian Coalition for Seniors Mental Health conference was reviewed. Website is www.ccsmh.ca.
 - g. Paula: GHC offices on Willow are still under construction – many administrative functions will be moved to this site. The wait time for a nursing assessment at the Geriatric Assessment Clinic is one month, and for a physician consult is 3-4 months.
 - h. Arlene: Training for PIECES has once again received funding. Sessions are occurring in Sudbury. 2006 sessions are pending funding.
 - i. Carolyn: The Alzheimer Society will soon be opening an East Algoma satellite office, to be located in donated space at Huron Lodge. Carolyn Ross has been hired. The Elder Abuse Awareness project is nearing the end of the one-year project. A large media blitz on elder abuse awareness will be occurring in October, with October 19 being designated Elder Abuse Awareness Day. On this day, there will be an educational event at the Marconi from 1-4:30. Contact Carolyn if you would like more information. Alzheimer "Unforgettable" bracelets are for sale for \$2.
9. Next meeting date is Tuesday, December 6, 2005 at 10:00 a.m. The location may be changed if members from the Accessibility Committee attend. Carolyn will notify members prior to the next meeting where the location will be.
 10. Meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.