

**DEMENTIA CARE NETWORK ALGOMA
STEERING COMMITTEE**

Monday, September 8, 2003
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: Duane Buchanan, Family Caregiver
Barbara DelPaggio, Algoma Community Care Access Centre
Barb Forest, Seniors' Mental Health – Sault Area Hospital
Paula Sirie, Group Health Centre
Harold Clayton, Seniors' Mental Health - North Shore Community Support Services
Phyllis Youmans, Family Caregiver
Susan Van Atte, ACMS District Health Council
Arlene Gear, Psychogeriatric Resource Consultant
Carolyn Cybulski, Alzheimer Society

Regrets: Sharon Swain, Canadian Red Cross Community Health Services
Gayle Cazalet, North Shore Tribal Council
Zahida Croskery, Algoma Manor
Bonnie Lyons, Ontario Finnish Resthome
Dr. James Chau, St. Joseph General Hospital
Shelley McEachern, Sault Area Hospital
Linda Toner, Ministry of Health

1. Arlene opened the meeting.
2. Carolyn updated the group on the Care Map project. The Care Map (a 2 page resource including 1 page on dementia care services and 1 page on driving decisions) has been developed and printed for Sault Ste. Marie and Central Algoma – approximately 270 have been distributed. Approximately 20 evaluations have been received, with very positive feedback. Members are reminded to complete their evaluations if they haven't done so. The four agencies at the top of the Care Map have been asked if the Care Map could be placed on their agencies' web sites. Alzheimer Society does not have a web site; CCAC has already placed the information on its Information and Referral database; Barb F. and Paula will check with their agencies about their web sites.
3. Arlene has extended invitations to a variety of people to join the Education Working Group. Some people have committed; others are undecided as yet. It was suggested that Arlene might wish to contact Darlene Trovarello in Wawa for input. First meeting is September 23 at 1:30 p.m. at the Alzheimer Society office.
4. Carolyn informed members that approximately \$100 of the \$5,000 in Dementia Network funding has been used. The money must be used before March 31, 2004. Possible uses of the money include: a. education

conference; b. resources for district communities; c. website. Members agreed that development of a dementia network website might make the most effective use of the money, providing that: a. costs are within budget; b. ongoing maintenance time is manageable; c. no large ongoing costs will need to be incurred by the Alzheimer Society. Carolyn will do some investigation into this matter and will report back to the group at the next meeting. Susan suggested speaking with someone at the Algoma Health Unit who was involved in the development of the website for Healthy Babies Healthy Children.

5. An invitation has been extended to each local dementia network in Ontario to attend a provincial dementia network meeting on October 20 in Toronto. Two people from this network can attend (all expenses paid). It will be an opportunity for networking, to learn more about the activities of other networks, and to showcase our Care Map (the 2 people attending should be prepared to answer questions related to the Care Map). Members were asked to indicate their interest/ability to attend. Barb D., Barb F., and Harold will get back to Arlene/Carolyn if they wish to attend, and the final decision will be made at that point. Deadline to register is September 22.
6. Carolyn reviewed the gaps in services that were identified through the Inventory of Services process undertaken last year, in order to determine future activities of the Network. Duane suggested looking at this in greater detail at the next meeting by setting priorities and determining a plan of action from there. A list of gaps will be forwarded along with the agenda for the next meeting, so that people can discuss these gaps with colleagues prior to the meeting; additionally, people who are unable to attend the meeting will hopefully be able to email their list of priorities before the meeting so that their input may be received.
7. Round table reports:
 - CCAC: Rhonda and Barb are redistributing responsibilities, including committee memberships. The training for the common assessment tool is almost completed. An OT has been hired in East Algoma (working out of Blind River).
 - SMH SSM: The issue of crisis care for dementia clients has been previously brought forward to the manager, particularly with respect to delirium.
 - SMH NSCSS: An agreement between NSCSS and Dr. Chau has been drawn up. It is anticipated that Dr. Chau will be available to the program one half day per week. He will be available to Thessalon as well.
 - GHC: Paula identified a need for physician education in the area of medications (cognitive enhancers).
 - DHC: A Needs Assessment is being conducted for services outside of CCAC programs – this will be an opportunity for this committee to have input – information will go to the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care. The MOHLTC has agreed to temporarily continue funding the interim beds at Sault Area Hospital and Great Northern Retirement Home, but funding will be less than it is now and may create operational deficits.
 - PRC: Another physiotherapist has been hired at Elliot Lake hospital. More PIECES training is coming – date and place TBA. A new training initiative for non-regulated health care workers has been developed:

U-First – this is a 2 day training session which provides some understanding of dementia so that workers can flag and report concerns.

- Alzheimer Society: A Needs Assessment is currently underway – members are asked to complete a survey and return in to the Society. The Recreation Therapy program was launched 3 weeks ago – 8 clients currently on service with some excellent results already being seen. A coalition of agencies in Ottawa is attempting to ascertain the feasibility of creating a Dementia Respite Bungalow.

8. Meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m. Next meeting: **Tuesday, October 28 at 10:00 a.m. at the Alzheimer Society office.**