

# Ontario Dementia Network

**Minutes of the Ontario Dementia Network conference call on Tuesday September 15, 2009 at 0830.**

## **Present:**

Kathy Wright Co-Chair, (Champlain LHIN 11)  
Dr. Bill Dalziel, Co-chair (Champlain LHIN 11)  
Cindy Backen (North West LHIN 14)  
Mary Burnett (Hamilton Niagara Haldimand Brant LHIN 4)  
Carolyn Cybulski (North East LHIN 13)  
Julia Baxter (Mississauga Halton LHIN 6)  
Nancy Cornwell Local Health Integration Collaborative  
Shelley Green (South West LHIN 2)  
David Harvey Alzheimer Society of Ontario  
David Townsend (South East LHIN 10)  
Marija Padjen and Ellen Kampf (Toronto Central LHIN 7)  
Carol Taylor (Waterloo Wellington LHIN 3)  
Christine Wright (Erie St. Clair LHIN 1)  
Debbie Islam (North Simcoe Muskoka LHIN 12)  
Loretta Tanner (Central East 9)

Barbara Schulman Planner ODN (outgoing as of Sept 15, 2009)  
Karen Gill Planner ODN (as of Sept 15, 2009)

## **Regrets:**

Dr. Ken LeClair  
Megan Harris  
Jennifer Sequeira  
Taro Shako

### **1. Welcome and Introductions**

Kathy welcomed all to the second meeting of the Ontario Dementia Network.

Kathy introduced Karen Gill to the group. She will be taking on the role of Planner for the ODN as of to-day's date. Karen comes with a long interest in the area of dementia as a previous Executive Director of an Alzheimer chapter.

Kathy thanked Barbara Schulman for her role and efforts in assisting the ODN in its development to this point. Barbara will be remaining on in her role as Planner, Champlain Dementia Network

At this time Kathy is still waiting for clarification on LHIN 5 ongoing representation. Loretta Tanner reported that their Regional Dementia Network (LHIN 9) is meeting September 18<sup>th</sup> and representation to ODN will be an agenda item.

**Action item:** Loretta to contact Karen Gill with representative name and contact info.

At this point David Harvey has not contacted the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long Term Care regarding representation on ODN.

**Action item:** David Harvey to contact MOHLTC to seek representation to ODN.

Kathy reported that a letter from her and Bill had been sent over a month ago the Ontario College of Family Physicians with the suggestion of Dr. Andrea Moser as a representative.

**Action item:** Kathy to follow up.

Nancy Cornwell noted that the Local Health Integration Network Collaborative should be corrected on the membership list.

2. **Adoption of minutes of meeting May 26, 2009.** No errors or omissions were reported. Kathy confirmed with those present that they had all received a copy of the work plan for the ODN.
3. **Adoption of agenda for September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2009** with the following additions: Business Arising b) Community of Practice New Business c) Health Working Environments.

**4. Business Arising:**

- a. Update on funding for ODN: David Harvey reported that there is \$10,000 available from the Alzheimer Knowledge Exchange to support the work of ODN. David also confirmed that Novartis is providing \$9,000 to be utilized in the area of dementia education at the local levels. Local dementia networks could be involved in recruiting, encouraging and supporting local doctors to deliver this education locally. A utilization plan needs to be developed. The funding discussions with the College of Family Physicians discussions-deleted have not resulted in any favourable responses to this point which is disappointing. Dr. Dalziel will be approaching Jansen and Pfizer for funding. Discussion followed regarding regional Dementia Networks also approaching drug companies for funding for educational activities within their LHIN areas and questioned if this would cloud the issues? Dr. Dalziel and David Harvey felt that it was appropriate to be doing this and would not confuse the issues as the companies have monies specifically to support local efforts.

Kathy Wright asked if they felt drug companies would find value in supporting the development and distribution of an Ontario wide newsletter for Family Doctors. Dr. Dalziel felt the cost of provincial mailing would be prohibitive on an ongoing basis. (Ottawa mailing is \$2000 per newsletter). Carolyn Cybulski also noted they are questioning in their area the feasibility of continuing with a physician newsletter as they have not received a single response from physicians. There was much discussion generated on this topic but it was felt that the survey results might provide further information on areas that require the type of funding that can be provided by pharmaceutical companies. It is recognized that the pharma companies will not provide monies for infrastructure. Once the ODN is running well and has some viable products with a perceived value then it will be time to go to the Ministry

of Health and Long Term Care for financial support. Dr. Dalziel will begin discussions with the other major pharma companies.

- b. Community of Practice: David Harvey was to explore the idea of establishing the Ontario Dementia Network as a Community of Practice through the Alzheimer Knowledge Exchange. No action has been taken at this time. David suggested that this is an area that needs further discussion, including Kathy Wright, Megan Harris and Karen Gill, to explore the potential benefits.

**Action item:** Karen to explore this with Kathy Wright, to see about urgency of action and to see if background info available for group as well as who will be taking part in discussion.

## 5. New Business:

- a. ODN Work Plan: Survey of Dementia Networks
  - i) Content (draft survey) After discussion it was agreed that the survey will be sent out as a survey monkey to all known dementia networks- regional and local. In this way it will be inclusive and not delay response times. All information gathered will be shared with the ODN membership. It was agreed to add questions that would capture information on funding that might be being provided to the networks, asking them to identify any challenges they are facing in doing their work, what is their perceived role of the ODN, and what type of support they would find helpful from the ODN to enable them to be more successful in their work ( e.g. they need tools developed to help them in their work) .Some suggestions for further refinement of question 2 and 3 were provided and will be included. Along with the survey we will also send the TOR of the ODN.
  - ii) Time Frame: Once suggestions are incorporated Karen will send out the survey to Dementia Network Chairs and seek a response by Oct 30<sup>th</sup> to enable collation and distribution of findings prior to next conference call.
- b) Logo: The logo for Champlain Dementia Network (CDN) was sent to all members.

The North Simcoe Muskoka Network is looking to develop a logo and questioned whether there should be a unified branding across the province of all dementia networks and whether the ODN was going to develop a logo.

Kathy approached the CDN and it has authorized the use of its logo for ODN and any other provincial networks that might wish to adopt it for their own usage as well. The image would be the same throughout but the tag line would change to represent the particular network. Kathy was asked what the birds were meant to represent. They were originally meant to symbolize hope, peacefulness and movement. One ODN representative pointed out they could now represent the three levels of dementia networks-provincial, regional and local. Agreement was reached that ODN will adopt the Champlain logo as their official logo and that dementia networks would be encouraged to adopt the logo but this was optional.

**Action Item:** ODN representatives could share this information with their respective networks for discussion and possible adoption. We will revisit this item at future meetings for updates.

c) Healthy Work Environments: David Harvey shared information on this call for proposals several weeks ago. David felt that this was an opportunity for the Alzheimer Society of Ontario (ASO) to promote dementia education at the community level across all sectors. The Alzheimer Knowledge Exchange has engaged Scott Macpherson to develop this proposal. Local dementia networks would seek and provide local supporters for the project. The deadline for proposals is Sept 17<sup>th</sup>. At this time David is not aware of which locals have signed on to support the proposal and what shape the proposal is taking. The focal idea was to create different educational opportunities across the continuum. A more skilled workforce creates a healthier work force.

**Action item:** David Harvey to ask Scott to provide an update to ODN members on the proposal.

## **6. Other Business:**

- a) Letter of support for MAREP's CURA submission. All received a copy with the agenda packet for to-day's meeting. If the study is funded the ODN could help with the dissemination of information gathered from this study being done by the Community University Research Alliance. David provided a brief description of the project.
- b) Information Exchange:
  - i) Shelley Green LHIN 2 in their area they have a collaborative that incorporates the nine AS chapters and two Regional Dementia Networks in the development of a three part learning series: Reducing the Risks of Dementia. They will be developing this package with a consistent message and actual tools participants will be able to take home with them to help improve their own life and to help prevent dementia. The goal is to have this ready for implementation in January 2010. They are interested in having this package disseminated across Ontario.
  - ii) Kathy Wright reported that at the Champlain DN meeting recently they reviewed their local IHSP for which they were given one week to respond. The absence of the issue of dementia was notably lacking in the report. Their response will point out how dementia affects all of the priorities as identified by the LHIN, how it crosses all sectors. David Townsend from the SELHIN also noted the omission of dementia from their IHSP. The SEO Regional Dementia Network has also prepared a response to their LHIN.

**Action item:** ODN to encourage regional dementia networks to respond to their respective IHSPs if action is required to move the issue of dementia forward in their IHSPs.

7. **Date of next meeting:** Conference call November 24<sup>th</sup> 0830 until 1000 hours.

**Action item:** David Harvey to explore possibility of a face to face meeting in Toronto in April 2010.

8. **Adjournment:** the conference call ended at 0930.