



Report from the Leadership Team May 2008

Client Centred Care

Video Conferencing Initiatives

Dr. Bartolucci, a psychiatrist with the Care Group, specializes in working with people with dual disorders (mental health and developmental issues). He provides direct care to our Evergreen tenants as well as additional clinical services and staff consultation using video conference technology.

LibreStream Technologies conducted a demonstration of real time portable videoconferencing cameras that KO Telehealth is using for tele-homecare nursing consults in remote First Nations communities. Options to trial a pilot in the rehabilitation programs for the delivery of Occupational Therapy home visits or Physiotherapy follow up are being explored.

Shared Mental Health Care

Discussion with the family physicians at the Spence Clinic, who are involved with our shared mental health care service, indicated high satisfaction with the service. The high volume of referrals has impacted our ability to see all referred clients within two weeks. Processes are being developed to reduce the waiting time for a first appointment.

Reduced Access Time to Mental Health Services

The Dialectical Behaviour Therapy team received comprehensive training in the management of people with borderline personality disorder (BPD). The implementation of this new model of care has resulted in a significant reduction in the wait time for clients with a borderline personality, i.e. from two years to two months. The team has also developed group treatment for clients not diagnosed with BPD, but with clear problems regulating their emotions.

Our People

Project Coordinator

Andrew Wehrstedt has been hired as Project Coordinator for Information Services. A certified project manager, Andrew will be of tremendous assistance in keeping track of the multitude of provincial, LHIN, regional and internal projects. In addition, Andrew will help implement our priority framework and provide project management services on selected major projects.

Hospital Health Promotion

Michelle Knudson, Coordinator of Occupational Health has been selected to participate in the Ontario Health Promoting Hospitals Advisory Committee. The purpose of the committee is to advise the Ontario Hospital Association on issues related to Hospital Health Promotion. Michelle was also invited to attend the Healthy Outcomes Conference in April. This was a forum bringing together senior-level decision-makers within public and private health groups to discuss the common challenges of managing workplace health and share solutions for improving employee health and productivity. A special conference report will be published in the June 2008 issue of Working Well magazine.

Wellness Event

During the month of April, a Curling Funspiel was held for all SJCG employees, sponsored by the Wellness Committee. A total of 28 teams (approx. 110 people) participated in the event. Teams enthusiastically participated in two draws of curling followed by dinner and prize presentation.

National Volunteer Week (April 27 to May 2, 2008)

National Volunteer Week provides a special opportunity for the Care Group to recognize our wonderful volunteers. The celebrations kicked off with the Volunteer Appreciation Dinner on April 23, 2008 and continued in multiple ways as the week progressed including: a Thank You ad in the local newspaper; displays in the lobbies; flowers and tent cards in the cafeterias, messages on the iNtranet and in newsletters; and award presentations to certain SJCG volunteers at the Thunder Bay Citizens of Exceptional Achievement dinner. We extend a huge thank you to the hundreds of caring, dedicated and resourceful volunteers who contribute their time and talents to the Care Group.

Nursing Graduate Guarantee

This is the second year that the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC) is offering the Nursing Graduate Guarantee. To date, eight Registered Nurses have been offered positions at the St. Joseph's Hospital site under this program.

Certificate in Risk Management and Safety

Nicole Tittley, Coordinator Infection, Risk & Safety has successfully completed the Canadian Healthcare Association's Risk Management and Safety in Health Services Program. Nicole completed this program with distinction and now joins a small but growing group of professionals holding this certification.

Nursing Education Awards

The Nursing Quality Practice Council advocated for the development of a Nursing Award with the result that two St. Joseph's Care Group Awards will be announced during Nursing Week. The awards will provide financial aid to a Nursing student at Lakehead University and a Practical Nursing student at Confederation College who have expressed an interest in complex care, rehabilitation, mental health, addictions or long-term care.

Palliative Care Training

LPH's Adult Rehabilitation Program staff is enrolled in the Palliative Care in-service training. This will enhance nursing staff's knowledge required to provide continuity of care for future palliative care clients at Lakehead Psychiatric Hospital.

Pilot Project in Addiction Services

A new model for the provision of clinical supervision for Adult Addiction Services staff is being established. A clinical resource team has been developed and includes three key leaders in the provision of clinical supervision, Rev. Hugh Walker, Diane Walker and Norma Jackson. The pilot project will run from June 2008 to December 2008.

Train-the-Trainer Sessions

Staff on the dual diagnosis team attended train-the-trainer training in positive behaviour support, which is an evidence-based approach to managing responsive behaviours. These staff will provide training and support to direct care staff from a number of community organizations, including the Care Group.

Geriatric Mental Health Institute

Several representatives from Seniors' Mental Health Services attended the Geriatric Mental Health Institute sponsored by SJCG and CERAH in April.

Least Restraint Tool Kit

The Mental Health Least Restraint Toolkit education sessions for both the Adult Rehabilitation and Geriatric Rehabilitation Programs commenced on April 15, 2008. The purpose of the toolkit and the training is to ensure restraints are used when appropriate and alternate strategies are implemented wherever possible.

Celebrating Innovations in Health Care Expo

Three separate initiatives were presented at the MOHLTC's Celebrating Innovations in Health Care Expo 2008 held in Toronto at the beginning of May. Dr. Paul Mulzer's film, "Seeking Bimaadiziwin", the collaborative work done by Thunder Bay Mental Health Case Management Intake Services, and the Northwest Health Network and its collaboration activities related to PACS and shared Meditech were showcased.

Collaboration

CEISS Focus Groups

In collaboration with NWLHIN, consultation sessions were held in Dryden, Thunder Bay and Terrace Bay to gather input from healthcare providers and community partners on development of the Behavioural Health component of the Centre of Excellence for Integrated Seniors' Services (CEISS). In addition, consultation sessions were held with Northern Ontario School of Medicine, Lakehead University, Confederation College, and researchers on the development of the education and research components of the Centre of Excellence.

Arts Access Project

Over the past few months, clients attending the Day Hospital program worked collaboratively with a group of home schooled children on an intergenerational art project. This project, facilitated by two artists from the Thunder Bay Art Gallery, was made possible through "Arts Access" which is a community arts initiative created to increase public involvement with art through various creative projects.

On April 4, 2008, the grand opening of the completed illustrations and story entitled "The Waking Rock", took place at the Thunder Bay Art Gallery in conjunction with the opening of displays of two well known children book illustrators. This illustration project will be exhibited at the Gallery until June 8th.

TBSO Partnership

In April, SJCG enjoyed the benefits of an ongoing partnership with the Thunder Bay Symphony Orchestra (TBSO). Two free concerts were held – the first was a quartet performance in the Georgian Room at St. Joseph's Heritage, enjoyed by all who attended, including residents of Bethammi and tenants of the PR Cook Apartments. The second was a wonderful performance of "Peter and the Wolf" by a TBSO ensemble for a large and appreciative audience at the Volunteer Appreciation Dinner. For the second year, the Auxiliary to SJCG also partnered with TBSO to sponsor the balcony ticket fund-raiser for the final Pops concert of the symphony season – a very successful venture.

Employment Options

Employment Options have partnered with the Independent Living Centre, Ontario March of Dimes and the PARO Centre for Women's Enterprise to support a four year project involving five communities in three provinces. The primary project objective is to develop and test online self-employment and assessment resources for people with disabilities. Employment Options is now part of the Local Community Learning Network.

Regional Narcotics Task Force

A Regional Narcotics Task Force has been established to respond to identified issues and client care needs regarding increased use and misuse of prescription opiates. Members include, but are not limited to, representatives from hospitals, health care agencies, WSIB, Criminal Justice, Aboriginal and First Nation Communities and the Thunder Bay District Health Unit.

Collaboration in Care

Staff from Alpha Court is providing services to clients at St. Joseph's Health Centre who have been referred to our urgent care counseling service through the Mental Health Assessment Team of Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre. The case manager will provide navigation and bridging services to these clients, after they are seen by the urgent care counsellor. Comparable services for seniors are being developed.

Approximately 90 clients have been diverted from admission to inpatient mental health services at Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre since this pilot project began on May 1, 2007.

Communication & Advocacy

Innovations for Aging at Home

A poster on the Centre of Excellence for Integrated Seniors' Services was presented at the *Innovations for Aging At Home Showcase*, a dynamic one-day event held on April 23, 2008 at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre dedicated to innovative programs for seniors living where they want and in the way that they want. Paulina Chow, Vice President, Long-Term Care & Housing, represented St. Joseph's Care Group at this event, presenting the CEISS poster as one of three NWLHIN innovative programs showcased.

Problem Gambling Article

Kim Gosnell of the Problem Gambling Team provided input into an article on problem gambling and older adult populations which will be featured in the next issue of Crosscurrents magazine.

LHIN Mental Health and Addictions Advisory Team

Nancy Black has been selected to serve on the NW LHIN Mental Health and Addictions Advisory Team. The inaugural meeting of the Advisory was held on May 1, 2008.

Drum Circles for Seniors

The Psychogeriatric Resource Consultant submitted a *Quality Story* to the SENIORS Health Research Transfer Network highlighting Drum Circle activities that have been implemented at Pinewood Court Nursing Home.

Teaching & Research Identities

Ontario Neurotrauma Foundation (ONF) Funding

A team of researchers, led by Michel Bédard and other members of the SJCG research department, was recently awarded approximately \$377,000 from the ONF to conduct a two year, multi-site randomized controlled trial of the efficacy of mindfulness-based cognitive therapy on relieving depression in those who have a traumatic brain injury.

Journal Publication

Congratulations to Julie Colbourn, Denette Pacifico, Sherry Manary and Noel Heath, whose paper, "Effectiveness of Splinting for the Treatment of Trigger Finger" was accepted for publication in the Journal of Hand Therapy.

Evaluation - Supportive Housing

Quantitative and qualitative data is being collected to capture the functional and overall improvements made by individuals who have moved from institutionalized care to supported community living (Evergreen) within the context of psychosocial rehabilitation. It is hoped that the data will clearly demonstrate the importance of approach, environment and cross-sectoral collaboration in residential settings.

Capital Project Updates

Sister Margaret Smith Centre (SMSC)

Significant progress is being made on construction of our new SMSC, with the work continuing on schedule and on budget. An initial SMSC Transfer Committee meeting was held to establish a process for developing plans associated with the move from the present to new facility.

Mental Health Rehabilitation Program (MHRP)

We have had discussion of the Block Schematic Report with the MOHLTC related to concerns over the increase in area and capital costs. A detailed response for each space, explaining the reasons for variance between the Functional Program and the Revised Functional Program is being prepared for submission to the MOHLTC. The Sketch Plans will not be submitted until there is substantial agreement by the MOHLTC on the existing report or a revised Block Schematic Report is submitted.

Centre of Excellence for Integrated Seniors Services (CEISS)

Master planning and functional programming are progressing to solidify the project design. The project team is meeting the aggressive schedule for this project. A meeting was held with the North West LHIN to review the detailed background for the existing project budget (\$56.6M) and the budget prepared by the project team based on developed scope and updated cost estimates. The NWLHIN was supportive of SJCG meeting with the Ministry to discuss the updated project budget requirements with relation to the required project elements.