



Report from the Leadership Team December 2009



On behalf of the entire Leadership Team, a very
Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy New Year to all!



Client Centred Care

Accreditation

Our on-site survey dates are fast approaching. Four surveyors will be with us from February 22–26, 2010. In preparation for this visit, the 14 quality teams across the organization are working on their quality improvement plans to address any issues flagged in their self-assessment. Education on the new survey method – tracers – will occur in January so all staff are comfortable walking through care and service processes with the surveyors (new method) instead of meeting with them as a team (old method).

H1N1 Response

Increased pandemic H1N1 in our community necessitated development of an *H1N1 Corporate Response Team* to meet and initiate our pandemic plan. This included heightened surveillance and precautions and an increase in communication to staff.

Our team worked with Pharmacy and managers to ensure that the H1N1 vaccine was provided based on Ministry priority groups to our inpatients and residents of our long-term care homes. The need and the challenges of providing vaccine in the residential and mental health outpatient programs were reviewed with Managers. Nurse practitioners were utilized to provide immunization to these clients. Thank you to everyone for their cooperation and diligence during this stressful time.

New Exercise Program

In November, the Leisure Life Skills Instructor initiated a new weekly Fun-Fitness group using therabands on Older Adult Rehabilitation. The Physiotherapist was consulted to recommend specific exercises to enhance strength training in older adults and continues to assess individual suitability for the program.

Christmas Watercolor Art Project

Leisure Life Skills staff are providing a Co-op placement for a Hammarskjold High School student until December. The co-op student facilitated a Christmas watercolor art project with 10 clients on Older Adult Rehabilitation. Client art will be displayed at the individual client bedside areas or the program corridors.

Our People

Rotman School of Management

Congratulations to Penny Anguish, Vice President, Complex Care & Rehabilitation, and Chief Nursing Officer, on her acceptance into the *Advanced Health Leadership Program* through the Rotman School of Management, University of Toronto. This executive education program is focused on the development of the next generation of Ontario's health leaders. It seeks to improve their understanding and skills in the areas of Leadership, the Management of Change, Emotional and Political Intelligence and Integrative Thinking.

Resident First - Ontario Health Quality Council Project

The Ontario Health Quality Council, Resident First - Advancing Quality in Ontario Long-Term Care Homes Project is working in partnership with the North West LHIN-Wide Falls Injury Prevention Collaborative with the goal to train staff in all sectors (acute care, long-term care and community agencies) in the North West LHIN region with experience in promoting quality within their organization, and to support the falls

prevention teams participation. Staff will acquire expertise in quality improvement and contribute directly to building capacity for quality improvement in the North West LHIN.

NOSM Rehabilitation Studies Stream

The Rehabilitation Studies Stream Dinner and Professional Issues night for rehabilitation professionals (Occupational Therapists, Physiotherapists, Speech Language Pathologists, and Registered Dietitians) in Northwestern Ontario was held. Rehabilitation staff of various hospitals and centres within the region were acknowledged by the Northern Ontario School of Medicine for provision of valued rehabilitation student placements and learning opportunities over the past year.

Staff Education

Staff from Seniors' Mental Health Programs participated in various education and training opportunities including:

- Attendance and presentations at the 14th Annual Dementia Care Conference entitled "Connecting Personhood and Dementia Care" held at the Travelodge Airlane.
- Dr. Patricia Lepage presented "The Sherlock Homes Approach to Knowing the Difference between Delirium and Dementia."
- Cindy Backen, Psychogeriatric Resource Consultant presented "Gentle Persuasive Approaches: responding to behaviours respectfully, confidently and skillfully."
- Tracy Puurunen, Dementia Care Program Social Worker presented "Older Adult Substance Misuse: the issues, risks and solutions."
- Sandra Dewsberry, SBHOT Case Manager, participated in knowledgeable and insightful panel discussions with colleagues in the field of Dementia Care and conference participants.

Ontario Society of Occupational Therapists Award

Laurie Macdonald, Occupational Therapist on the Older Adult Rehabilitation Program, was the recipient of the "Ontario Society of Occupational Therapists Award" for longstanding and valued volunteer contribution with the society and profession of Occupational Therapy.

Self-Defense Classes

Community mental health staff attended a self-defense training session at the Thunder Bay Police Department. Participants' reviews were very positive.

Recruitment Events

St. Joseph's Care Group has participated in multiple recruitment events in many locations. This year the PAIRO Recruitment Tour, which for many years included only the Eastern and Southern Ontario locations of Ottawa, Kingston, London, Hamilton and Toronto, expanded into the North with events in Thunder Bay and Sudbury, to appeal to the learners associated with NOSM. SJCG participated as part of the Thunder Bay contingency at all 7 locations and added our own special recruitment event in Winnipeg, as the next closest large centre with a medical school.

These events targeted all medical students, residents & practicing physicians, as well as students in other health fields and practicing professionals (physiotherapists, occupational therapists, nurses etc). SJCG also participated in career fairs at both Confederation College and Lakehead University, where the target audience is all students, but our focus is primarily directed to nursing students and others in the health care and counseling fields. We also participated in a Volunteer Fair at Lakehead University this fall, encouraging students to volunteer in our facilities to gain healthcare related experience.

Healthcare Risk Management Certification

Congratulations to Shelley Peirce, Infection Risk & Safety Officer for successfully completing the Ontario Hospital Association's certificate program on Healthcare Risk Management.

New JOHSC

A new Joint Health and Safety Committee (JOHSC) was welcomed for the new Sister Margaret Smith Centre. This brings the number of committees to 7: Corporate, St. Joseph's Hospital (including Diabetes and Balmoral), St. Joseph's Health Centre (including Supportive Housing), Lakehead Psychiatric Hospital, St. Joseph's Heritage and Hogarth Riverview Manor (including BSC). The new JOHSC is Co-Chaired by Nancy Black and Mary Jane Hogan.

Collaboration

Neurology Day Program

As part of the 125th Year Anniversary Celebration of SJCG, the Neurology Day Program hosted “Step into the Shoes of Neurology Rehab” at an Open House. Neurology Day Program coordinated interactive therapy stations for public participation.

Community Based Exercise Program

Representatives from Complex Care and Physical Rehabilitation attended a community meeting to bring together persons with knowledge about what options already exists in the community and what needs to be developed. Discussions included funding availability, appropriate venues, training options, opportunities for sharing resources and the session offered an opportunity to network with others who are trying to do similar programming.

Nurse Led Outreach Team Collaboration

Pamela Robinson, RN and Mary Jane Melita, NP, from the Nurse Led Outreach Team (NLOT) located at Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre met with members of Seniors Community Psychiatry Program, Seniors’ Behavioural Health Outreach Team, and Seniors’ Psychiatry Day Program, to discuss the NLOT’s role relevant to Long Term Care. The conversation focused on ways in which the teams can work together collaboratively.

Evergreen Tours

Officials from the Planning and Strategy Policy Branch of the Ministry of Community and Social Services were in Thunder Bay conducting round table discussions and requested a tour of the special unit for assessment/stabilization of people with mental illness, behavioural issues and/or developmental disabilities. They were impressed with the collaboration that has taken place with SJCG.

Communication & Advocacy

Northwestern Ontario Stroke Strategy

The Northwestern Ontario Stroke Strategy strategic planning day was held on October 2nd. The focus was on setting goals that would facilitate operationalizing the strategic directions of the Ontario Stroke System. The goals will guide the work of the Northwestern Ontario Stroke Network staff and committees.

Time Capsule

On November 6, 2009, the cornerstone of the former Sister Margaret Smith Centre and St. Joseph's School of Nursing was opened. A time capsule, dating back to 1954 was found and opened by representatives from SJCG, Thunder Bay Historical Museum Society and Thunder Bay Archives. A few mementos including religious statues and medals, a rosary, holy water, small crucifix and a list of names of the Sisters who put the capsule in place, were found inside the box. St. Joseph's Care Group will be making plans to put the items on display in the near future.

General Service Medal Presentation to Dr. Patricia LePage

On November 19, 2009, representatives from the Canadian Armed Forces traveled to Thunder Bay to present the General Service Medal to Dr. Patricia LePage, Program Medical Director, Seniors’ Mental Health Programs, St. Joseph’s Care Group, at an afternoon reception held at Lakehead Psychiatric Hospital. Colonel Jean Grondin and Chief Petty Officer 1st Class Murielle Arsenault joined St. Joseph’s Care Group Leadership Team members, friends and colleagues to celebrate Dr. LePage’s achievement.

The General Service Medal (GSM) was created as a means to recognize those who provide direct support to operations in the presence of an armed enemy. Dr. LePage was recognized for her work in Kandahar, Afghanistan before coming to Thunder Bay to work in Geriatric Psychiatry at St. Joseph’s Care Group.

Thunder Bay Museum Lecture Series

Peter Raffo, author of St. Joseph’s Care Group’s history book, *Responding to Unmet Needs: 125 Year of Care in the Community*, was featured at the Thunder Bay Museum’s monthly lecture series. Peter spoke about the Sisters’ of St. Joseph, their arrival in Port Arthur and their contribution to health care in the community. He also outlined the evolution of St. Joseph’s General Hospital and the challenges and

rewards of constructing St. Joseph's Heritage. Over 30 people attended the one-hour lecture and many had interesting questions and comments. Following the lecture, refreshments were enjoyed while taking in the museum's display of some of the Hospital's artifacts and old pictures.

125th Anniversary Celebrations

A sincere thank you is extended to those who were involved behind the scenes in the planning of 125th Anniversary events. Your creative energy made 2009 a year to remember. Thank you to the Anniversary Planning Committee for their creative ideas and long-range planning; to the Communications staff for coordinating, communicating and taking care of the key details of these events; to Nutrition and Food Service staff throughout the Care Group, who prepared and served all the celebratory food, and finally, to everyone who participated or attended a celebration event.

Teaching & Research Identities

Speech Language Pathology

Tami Ross did a presentation to Resource Teachers for Thunder Bay run childcare programs on "Word Play". Resource Teachers are responsible for children with special needs within the childcare program. Tami also did Word Play training for educators at Aboriginal Head Start.

SJCG Presentation at Elder Care Conference

Managers from Long Term Care, Bethammi Nursing Home and Hogarth Riverview Manor, attended the RNAO's annual Elder Care Conference in Toronto in November. The conference focused on sharing initiatives to enhance the care of older persons. Nadia Thatcher, Manager of Bethammi Nursing Home, presented the resident and staff experience with the Improving Continence Care Collaborative at the conference.

Ontario Society of Occupational Therapists Summit on Aging

Laurie Macdonald, Occupational Therapist on the Older Adult Rehabilitation Program, attended the "Ontario Society of Occupational Therapists Summit on Aging", participating in workshops for assessment issues; advocating /planning for Occupational Therapy services in Long Term Care and visioning for Occupational Therapy services for the older adult in the context of meaningful and successful aging.

Statistician Presentations

Sacha Dubois, Research Statistician, provided three community presentations over the past month including: Driving Under the Influence (during the Forum North Health & Safety Conference); Applying epidemiological methods to Administrative databases and secondary data sources (to the Master of Public Health Program, Lakehead University); and, Medications and Driving (at the Centre for Research on Safe Driving Colloquium).

Capital Project Updates

Mental Health Rehabilitation Program (MHRP)

Now that all programs and staff have relocated from the old Sister Margaret Smith Centre, planning is underway for a site assessment and subsequent demolition. This is the beginning of site preparation for construction of the new "East Wing" addition to St. Joseph's Hospital that will not only house the MHRP but many other services and departments, once completed.

Centre of Excellence for Integrated Seniors' Services (CEISS)

An official "kickoff" for the CEISS project was held on December 4, 2009. The site is currently being prepared, with demolition of the buildings now completed. The initial construction on site will be for the Supportive Housing building (132 units), with the Long-Term Care beds to follow.

Sister Margaret Smith Centre (SMSC)

With programs fully operational and all staff on site at our new SMSC, there are still some outstanding "finishing touches" to be completed. We are working with the contractors to get this work done in the least disruptive manner possible to our clients and staff. There will be a number of community groups and organizations utilizing our new space over the holiday season for receptions and celebrations. We are proud to be able to host them in our new building!