



**Report from the Leadership Team  
February 2011**

**Client Centred Care**

**Adult Rehabilitation Psycho-educational Groups**

The psychology staff has responded to information requests from the clients on Adult Rehabilitation by initiating Psycho-educational groups in January. Psycho-educational group sessions are being held weekly to discuss mental health disorders in relation to symptoms, medical terminology and coping mechanisms.

**Youth Intensive Treatment Program**

In response to increasing complexity of client needs, the Youth Addictions Team has established a clinical working group to develop programming changes within the first week of the Residential Treatment Program to support young people as they stabilize from the harmful effects of poly-substance use. Dr. Ed Rawana will be working with the team to incorporate a strength based approach in the development of the program.

**Best Practices – Gentle Persuasive Approaches**

Staff from the Dementia Care and Older Adult Rehabilitation Programs participated in training related to Gentle Persuasive Approaches (GPA), currently a best practice approach in dealing with responsive behaviours related to dementia.

**Home First Philosophy**

Regular Home First Steering Committee meetings, (including representatives from the NW LHIN, CCAC, TBRHSC, SJCG, Long Term Care Homes and community physicians), continue in our efforts to advance this philosophy across the local health care system. In addition to the Joint Discharge Operations Team (JDOT) that problem solves complicated discharges from acute care, an Operational Team has been put in place to problem solve practical system barriers to care. A videoconference session with those who successfully implemented Home First in Mississauga Halton was held. Next steps include education of direct care staff, particularly nursing, on how this philosophy changes our practice and care processes. Lastly, the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care (MOHLTC) will soon be releasing a "home first toolkit".

**Driver Assessment Program**

In an effort to improve communication related to the requirements for reporting clients to the Ministry of Transportation (MTO) and the process for clients once they have been reported, the MTO information pamphlet will be added to the admission package distributed to all clients. The process will be explained to clients while they are an inpatient to ensure more consistency with the messaging.

**Family Conferences on Special Rehabilitation**

Dr. Overall, Most Responsible Physician for many clients admitted on the stroke pathway, is piloting participating in family conferences on special rehab via teleconference.

**End of Life Care Network**

As the host agency for this regional network, St. Joseph's Care Group is participating with Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre, Community Care Access Centre and Hospice Northwest in a Network working group that will begin to tackle barriers to system integration that make continuity of care and smooth transitions between levels of palliative care a challenge. Penny Anguish, Vice President, Complex Care & Physical Rehabilitation and CNO will chair the working group.

## ***Our People***

### **New Physician for Dementia Care**

Dr. Jonathon Koo, MD was welcomed as the new program Physician of the Dementia Care Program. Dr. Koo takes the place of Dr. Morrison who retired this month after many years of service, leadership, and dedication in caring for clients with dementia.

### **Trauma Counselling**

Lisa Seburn and Len Maki, Social Workers in the Homes for Special Care Program, attended a 3 day session on Trauma Counselling held in Thunder Bay. This is part one of a two part course leading to a Level 1 certificate in Trauma Counselling. The second three day session will take place in March.

### **Interprofessional Care Initiative in Long-Term Care**

On January 12, an event was held to celebrate the work of the Interprofessional Care Initiative which provided leadership training to 149 staff members from Bethammi Nursing Home and Hogarth Riverview Manor. The event was also an opportunity to kick off the integration of the training and tools into our daily practice. A mentor team, comprised of staff members from Bethammi & Hogarth, is an important structure that will enable us to keep moving forward.

### **Christmas Remembrance**

Barb Fugelsang, Spiritual Care Associate for Hospice Palliative Care, facilitated the annual Christmas Remembrance ceremony where family members who lost a loved one were invited to place an angel on trees in the Chapel. Thirty-six families attended this year. Included with the invitation was information on how to cope with the holiday season and a pamphlet on the emotional impact of having lost a loved one.

## ***Collaboration***

### **“Back to Basics” Group**

Back to Basics Group is facilitated by Northwestern Ontario Concurrent Disorders Program staff every seven weeks at Balmoral Centre. Topics include mental illness, addiction, psychotropic drugs, and substances of abuse.

### **Long Term Care Liaison**

Currently, the Psychogeriatric Resource Consultant and a case manager from Seniors' Community Psychiatry Program are liaising with two Long Term Care Homes concerning relevant issues including responsive behaviours experienced by residents. Formal steps are being taken to extend the liaison initiative to include all local Long Term Care Homes and invite their participation in the initiative.

### **ALC Wait Times Pilot Site**

As part of the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care Wait Time Information System (WTIS), each hospital in Ontario will be responsible to report alternate level of care (ALC) activity by June 2011. St. Joseph's Care Group (SJCG) was selected to be one of six hospitals in Ontario to pilot the deployment of ALC data collection with the WTIS. After months of preparation, St. Joseph's Hospital and Lakehead Psychiatric Hospital went live with WTIS to report near “real-time” information relating to ALC clients.

### **Stoke Pathway Focus Group**

Along with CCAC, Northwestern Ontario Regional Stroke Network and Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre Stroke Team, our Inpatient Rehabilitation and Neuro Day Interprofessional teams participated in a focus group related to the flow of clients across the care continuum and looked for opportunities for improvement related to discharge planning and reducing Alternate Level of Care (ALC) days.

### **Crime Prevention Council**

Tracy Buckler, President & CEO has been appointed as a member of the City of Thunder Bay's Crime Prevention Council. This large, multi-sectoral council was created in response to the community's ongoing concerns regarding crime in Thunder Bay.

## **Communication & Advocacy**

### **Art Showcase - Shaw Cable**

On Monday January 17, 2011, Shaw Television taped a short segment about the art showcase at St. Joseph's Hospital. Bilijana Baker, local watercolour artist, and Gary Duguid, St. Joseph's Care Group's Security Coordinator, were interviewed and discussed the history of the artwork and its importance in the healing environment. The segment will be shown periodically on Shaw Television in February.

### **Youth Addictions Program**

Denise Wallace and Dan Ventrudo were interviewed by Emilie Gauvreau from the Provincial Centre of Excellence for Child and Youth Mental Health and Substance Abuse at the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario. The purpose of the interview was to identify approaches to service delivery that address student mental health and/or substance use across a system or community. They were particularly interested in details regarding our "High on Life" program that is presented to Grade 4 and 5 students in both school boards.

### **Draft Housing Strategy Launch**

Tracey Outhouse-Miceli, Program Manager of Mental Health Housing and Employment, and Vickie Scholtens, Manager P.R. Cook Apartments, attended the Thunder Bay District Social Services Administration Board's Draft Housing Strategy Launch and Consultation January 25, 2011. An overview of the draft was presented by consultant Toni Farley followed by group discussions with attending stakeholders.

### **With an OPEN Mind Presentation**

On January 19, 2011, Dr. Paul Mulzer delivered a presentation about mental health to 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> year medical students at the Northern Ontario School of Medicine. The presentation highlighted the field of concurrent disorders (mental illness and addictions), discussing the impact of this common co-morbidity on costs, loss productivity and refractory nature of treatment. This presentation is one of three being delivered as part of the *With an OPEN Mind* program.

### **Freedom of Information**

Vicki Polischuk, Manager of Health Records and CRA, and Erin Paul, Communications Department, attended a workshop on the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act ("FIPPA")* which will apply to hospitals as of January 1, 2012. Vicki and Erin will be preparing a report that will be reviewed by the Leadership Team for discussion on the implications of this change.

## **Teaching & Research Identities**

### **Role Perception of Team Members on Mental Health Rehabilitation Programs**

In collaboration with McMaster University School of Rehabilitation Science, LPH Occupational Therapy staff has proposed a research study entitled "*Exploring role perception of team members working on Adult and Older Adult Mental Health Rehabilitation programs*", to take place on Adult and Older Adult Rehabilitation. This study has been submitted for Research Ethics Board approval with a proposed start date in March 2011.

### **Wound Care Education**

Specialized Services Manager, Scott Munro, and Clinical Leader, Debbie Warpula, will be working with the Enterostomal Nurse, Cheryl Ertl, the Wound Specialist Physician, Dr. Migay, and our Education Department to optimize the quality of wound care provided. This initiative will include improvements to documentation tools and specialized wound care education of front line nurses in accordance with current best practices. The longer term goal will be to develop an internal "Complex Wound Education Program" to enhance the skills of all nurses providing this specialized care to our clients.

### **Abstract Submission**

Erin Puhalski, Physiotherapist, and Kerry Calder, Prosthetist from Northland Prosthetics, submitted an abstract to present a case study at the Ontario Amputee Association Conference in 2011 titled: *Left Transtibial Amputation with a Left Knee Fusion: A Case Study*.