
OCDPA E-BULLETIN

MESSAGE FROM THE PROJECT MANAGER

We would first like to thank all of you who participated in developing the Chronic Disease Prevention Strategy. It has taken a little longer than we had planned, however we can see the end of the tunnel and appreciate your patience. You have shaped the product, and all your input, suggestions and recommendations have been heard. The concept of a Chronic Disease Prevention Strategy has evolved into a System Plan.

Thanks to those participating on the working groups. They have been active. A more fulsome update has been included in the bulletin by the chairs on page 4.

Another project that has just been completed is a scan of health messages. This document will be fascinating reading as well as helpful in discerning how to best proceed in Ontario. I think you will be surprised by its findings. As soon as the document can be shared we will let you know either through the e-bulletin or an email announcement. Funding was made possible through the Ministry of Health Promotion.

We are nearing the end of phase one of the environmental scan of chronic disease programs and services. The initial scan was kept small until we had an opportunity to work out some of the kinks. We thank those of you who took the time to be our focus group, and those who were our first group to complete the survey monkey. It was encouraging to receive unsolicited calls from those of you who had heard of the project and would like to have your projects entered. We will be calling you! Stay tuned for phase two as we broaden our net. The project will eventually be housed on a searchable web-hosted site. We will keep you apprised through the e-bulletin and meeting minutes of the project's development. Funding for this project was made possible from the Public Health Agency of Canada.

A copy of the document that CAMH undertook on behalf of OCDPA it is now available in PDF form. Please note it can be located on the OCDPA web site at <http://www.opha.on.ca/projects/ocdpa.html>.

Other highlights on the provincial horizon include the recent announcement of the new Ontario Agency of Health Protection and Promotion. The report is available on the Ministry's website: http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/public/pub/ministry_reports/agency_06/agency.html. (the full report is available as a PDF to download).

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PLEASE NOTE

Our office will be closed on Friday April 14th and Monday April 17th.

If your name appears incorrectly or has been omitted please contact us and we will rectify the problem. Also, if you have any suggestions or content that you would like to see in future e-bulletins, please contact us at ocdpa@opha.on.ca.

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A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Crafting an Ontario strategy that will have impact and bring extra value has been more challenging than we imagined six months ago. Key decisions have been deciding scope — should we create a work plan for the Alliance or a map/blueprint for Ontario players? Would we gain most by proposing a comprehensive strategy to address multiple diseases, factors, and social conditions? We decided that the necessary first commitment is to demand and help create a real prevention system. Thus, the strategy that you will see soon is a call to action to develop a coherent and well-resourced prevention system and a model of what this would look like.

The Alliance is now an affiliate member of the Ontario Health Promotion Resource System. When not engaged with the strategic working group, I've

represented the Alliance at a national coordinating committee meeting of the Integrated Healthy Living Strategy (see below); the Cancer Prevention Council; and the Ontario Stroke Strategy, Health Promotion Committee. I participated at a national policy symposium about reducing health disparities and a preliminary think tank held by the National Coordinating Centre on Determinants of Health of the Public Health Network. And, of course, I connect regularly with staff.

My immediate project is to negotiate productively with the Ministry of Health Promotion to ensure that the Alliance has appropriate finances and staff in place during 2006/07. I join Tracy in thanking the Public Health Agency of Canada and the Ministry of Health Promotion for funding to-date.

INTEGRATED HEALTHY LIVING NETWORK (IHLN) COORDINATING COMMITTEE UPDATE

On March 17, the IHLN Coordinating Committee met in Toronto. The Coordinating committee is made up government and non-governmental groups at Federal, Provincial and Territorial levels.

Part of the meeting addressed governance because the governance structure of the IHLN is changing as the Canadian Public Health Network takes shape. The Executive Committee of the IHLN will be replaced by a Healthy Living Issue Group; the Issue Group will report to the Population Health Promotion Expert Group of the Public Health Network. OCDPA stood to be among the NGO reps to the Issue Group, but was not elected to this position. We will be ably represented by colleagues from the Chronic Disease Prevention Alliance of Canada (chair); Coalition on Active Living; Alberta Healthy Living Coalition; and the Network on Healthy Eating. Minor changes to terms of reference were approved to reflect the new structures.

The rest of the meeting was made up of updates and information sharing. Public Health Agency of Canada presented the new public health infrastructure; introduced the recently formed Join Consortium on School Health; and described Canada's involvement in the World Health Organization Commission on Social Determinants of Health. Highlights of *Reducing Health Disparities – Roles of the Health Sector*, the discussion paper and recommended policy directions and activities paper (released early in 2006 by the Health Disparities Task Group of the F/P/T Advisory committee on Population Health and Health Security) were presented. Recommendations address leadership (making disparities reduction a priority); integrating disparities reduction into health programs and services; engaging cross-sectorally to reduce disparities; and strengthening knowledge development and exchange. Presentations were given by British Columbia, Alberta and Manitoba. Two working groups explored how best to communicate the IPCHL Strategy and develop appropriate evaluation, indicators and monitoring.

Connie Clement
Chair, OCDPA

Project Managers Message (continued)

On other fronts, the British Columbia Alliance is to be congratulated along with the BC government for its forward thinking! The BC government just recently announced a 30 million dollar investment of which \$25.2 million dollars will go to the BC Healthy Living Alliance to implement their plan. For reference sake the BC population is approximately 4 million and Ontario's is over 10 million – I will let you do the math. Wouldn't it be amazing if our Ontario government undertook a similar per capita investment?

This announcement and our own government's plans, lead me to wonder if BC was a richer province and could therefore better afford this investment. A cursory look at Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per capita, a common economic indicator, of both provinces shows Ontario actually has a higher GDP per capita than BC. Ontario is doing well economically, which would lead one to assume we could afford similar health investments upstream for future growth.

According to the Conference Board of Canada's recently released report 'Healthy Provinces, Healthy Canadians: a Provincial Benchmarking Report' (www.conferenceboard.ca/documents.asp?rnext=1533), BC is the healthiest province in Canada, and as we all so well know, will also reap the future the health care savings— unless of course we all move to BC! This link provides a bit more detail about the BC announcement: http://www2.news.gov.bc.ca/news_releases_2005-2009/2006HEALTH0017-000253.htm.

*Wishing you a healthy and happy Spring,
Yours in health,
Tracy Howson
Manager OCDPA*



HELLO FROM YOUR REGIONAL REP. ON THE ONTARIO CDP MANAGERS IN PUBLIC HEALTH (OCDPMPH)

The Ontario Chronic Disease Prevention Managers in Public Health would like to thank the Alliance for inviting us to the table. With support from OPHA (Tracy Howson, Giselle Sicchia and Michelle Brownrigg, Consultant), we continue to attend to administrative details establishing our new group while moving forward with several actions.

- 1) Our terms of reference are now being fine tuned and should be ready to share shortly.
- 2) We have set strategic directions in the areas of leadership and advocacy, communication, research and evaluation, common messages, and infrastructure/support.
- 3) We are investigating options for sustainable secretariat support. For this year (April 06-March 07) OPHA has put forth a Letter of Intent to support OCDPMPH).
- 4) Communication plans are progressing. Generic letters, a one page overview and a briefing note are being drafted to introduce and explain our group (for CDP managers, MOHs, Ministry, HPO, NGOs etc)
- 5) A meeting between the Chair of the OHPRS and representatives from our group is being arranged to establish a relationship and seek support.
- 6) We have identified concerns related to funding and strategy for Healthy Weights in response to Sheela Basrur's report in 2004. Plans are in progress to facilitate discussion among our membership to determine what and how to address these concerns with the Ministry.

*Christine Bushey
Chair*

STRATEGIC PLANNING (SHARED ENGAGEMENT) WORKING GROUP (SPWG)

The Strategic Planning Working Group is nearing the completion of a Chronic Disease Prevention and Healthy Living Strategy for Ontario. Thank you to all who provided such valuable input throughout the intensive consultation process. There continues to be much activity with this project. Recently, a number of chronic disease prevention experts were interviewed regarding the draft strategy. In addition, Dexter Harvey, Professor (Retired) Faculty of Education, University of Manitoba and Roy Cameron, Executive Director, Centre for Behavioral Research met with the strategic planning working group for further input. The plan will be presented to the alliance at the next meeting.

Deb Keen, Chair

ADVOCACY WORKING GROUP (AWG)

Members of the Advocacy Group are following up with Minister Watson's office after the completion of the Minister's recent community roundtables to request a pre-announcement technical briefing on Healthy Weights, Healthy Lives prior to any public announcement they provide.

We are following the MHP media release on a Healthy Weights, Healthy Lives announcement to prepare a media release that will either congratulate or address concern, depending on the announcement. Points on what to include in a media release will be circulated to all members of the Alliance.

Any opportunity to advocate for the March National Nutrition Month will be responded to, and will compliment efforts by others such as the OCGHEPA.

The Advocacy Working Group feels that coming actions will center around and compliment the upcoming Alliance System Plan. Until the release of the System Plan the Advocacy committee will continue to move forward on the chronic disease prevention agenda in Ontario.

Rowena Pinto, Chair

COMMUNICATIONS WORKING GROUP

OCDPA is in the process of developing a communications plan with the assistance of Keren Brown from VOX Communications. Key informant interviews are nearing completion as part one of our process and a draft of the plan should be available to the committee to review in mid April.

We are also pleased to announce that the "Chronic Disease in Ontario & Canada: Determinants, Risk Factors & Prevention Priorities" full report and summary report are now available in PDF version. Visit <http://www.opha.on.ca/projects/ocdpa.html> to access a copy. We have also added a PDF for the Environmental Scan from the Collaboration document in this section for your information.

In addition, French translation of the summary report is in progress. Our hope is to have this completed and available in PDF by the end of May.

Giselle Sicchia

KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE WORKING GROUP (KEWG)

- * Currently working to identify opportunities and mechanisms for knowledge exchange between and across both members of the Alliance and provincial stakeholders.
- * The Knowledge Exchange committee is shaping a paper that highlights an opportunity for an Alliance role in the knowledge exchange process that will complement the Strategic Planning Working Group's "System Plan".
- * OCDPA's role – to facilitate the knowledge exchange process, specifically in the discovery, sharing and application of knowledge around chronic disease prevention in Ontario –not to duplicate.

Hélène Gagné, Chair



OCDPA ALLIANCE AND WORKING GROUP MEETING SCHEDULE
As of March 31, 2005



Date	Group and details	Time	Location
April 10	Knowledge Exchange working group	9:00 - 12:00	OPHA
April 26	OCDPMPH	9:00 - 12:00	teleconference
May 11	Core Meeting	2:30 - 4:30	TDB

Short forms

CAMH	Centre for Addiction and Mental Health
CCO	Cancer Care Ontario
CCS	Canadian Cancer Society
H&S	Heart and Stroke Foundation
MOHLTC	Ministry of Health and Long Term Care
MPH	Ministry of Health Promotion
OPC	Ontario Prevention Clearinghouse
OPHA	Ontario Public Health Association
OCDPMPH	Ontario Chronic Disease Prevention Managers in Public Health
SPWG	Strategic Planning Working Group
TPH	Toronto Public Health
WG	Working Group

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Congratulations to Nancy Dubois

Nancy been elected as the CDPAC representative to co-chair the National Integrated Healthy Living Strategy.

Nancy will represent the NGO sector (Eleanor Wilson has filled this role, to date). The other co-chairs will be Farida Gabbani, the provincial government rep. from Nova Scotia and Lianne Vardy from PHAC.

Congratulations to Michelle Brownrigg

As many of you already know, Michelle Brownrigg has participated as an active member of the Alliance representing the Ontario Physical and Health Education Association (OPHEA). Michelle has recently accepted an opportunity offered at the Laidlaw Foundation and will therefore no longer be participating at the Alliance table. We wish Michelle well in her new endeavours and thank her for her contributions to the Alliance. Welcome to Jennifer Cowie Bonne who will serve as OPHEA's representative for the Alliance.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Upcoming Conferences and Workshops

CPHA May 28-31, 2006 www.cpha.ca

The OCDPA is proud to announce that we have had our abstract for a Poster and Workshop Session accepted for the Canadian Public Health Association Conference.

Building Bridges and Public Policy one day working conference on cancer and chronic disease prevention May 30, 2006
www.toronto.ca/health/resources/tcpc/index.htm

RNAO June 2, 2006 1-800-0268-7199 x. 227
The Many Faces of Diabetes

CDPAC Nov 5-8, 2006 www.cdpac.ca

OPHA CONFERENCE DETAILS

The annual OPHA conference will be held on October 25 to 27, 2006 at the Nav Canada Conference Centre in Cornwall. This year's conference is brought to you by the Ontario Public Health Association (<http://www.opha.on.ca>) and the Eastern Ontario Health Unit (<http://www.eohu-bseo.on.ca>). The goal of this years conference is to promote excellence and innovation in public health through the advancement of collaborative community initiatives.

Abstract submissions and conference details can be found at www.ophaconference.ca.