



Advancing High Quality and High Value Palliative Care

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Hospice Palliative Care Provincial Steering Committee Update 6

HOSPICE PALLIATIVE CARE PROVINCIAL STEERING COMMITTEE MEETINGS HIGHLIGHTS (7/15/2014)

The members of the Hospice Palliative Care Provincial Steering Committee are delighted to announce that Dr. Jeff Myers has accepted to be the Vice Chair of the Clinical Council of the Hospice Palliative Care Provincial Steering Committee.

Dr. Jeff Myers completed his family medicine training at the University of Toronto and went on to complete a Master degree in Medical Education from the University of Southern California. For the past 15 years he has maintained a clinical practice focus in palliative medicine and in 2006 became Head of Sunnybrook Health Science Centre's Palliative Care Consult Team and along with this the role of Cancer Care Ontario's Palliative Care Lead for Toronto Central. Dr. Myers is an Associate Professor at the University of Toronto and in 2012 he was appointed Head of the institutions academic Division of Palliative Care within the Department of Family and Community Medicine. Dr. Myers is the current W. Gifford-Jones Professor in Pain and Palliative Care at the University of Toronto.

- **Update from Communication and Awareness Working Group**

The Communication and Public Awareness Working Group has been focusing on improving access to information through a central hub for information and support and an awareness campaign for advance care planning.

On the central hub front, the working group has identified over 100 websites within Ontario containing hospice palliative care resources and references for both the public and health service providers. The sites include LHIN specific sites, or sites bound by LHIN geography, province wide sites. Many sites have links to information repositories outside of Ontario.

The working group is now cross referencing and indexing the information to the Domains of Care from the National Norms of practice, the target audience for the information, and classifying the resources available by type (education, information, service listing, clinical tools, etc.) A summer intern has been hired to validate the site links and attempt to identify the original source of information resources and tools. Next steps for the Fall will be to present our work to the LHIN/PEOLCN Leads Joint Table for feedback on concepts for standardization of information and options for creating the central hub

Advance Care Planning educational materials have been assembled and are available at <http://www.hpco.ca/acp-hcc-hsp> for free. The materials include four videos based on the national Speak Up campaign and customized for Ontario's legal context. PowerPoint presentations and facilitator guides are included for three of the four videos.

The working group will create a communication for distribution to each LHIN, network, and coalition partner to promote the resources. In mid-August, each LHIN and network will receive a set of videos on CD and printed copies of the material.

- **Update from Clinical Council**

On June 27, 2014 the Clinical Council held its inaugural meeting, during which it aimed to develop a common vision for the Council, a shared understanding of its mandate, and a critical path for its future work. The next meeting is scheduled for August 2014 during which it will finalize its operations framework. In the meantime, the Council has been tasked to review the End-of-Life Mega Analysis undertaken by Ontario Health Technology Advisory Committee

(OHTAC) of Health Quality Ontario (HQO) to review evidence surrounding the recommendations on palliative care and suggested next steps.

- **Update from Data and Performance Subcommittee**

Most recently, a Subcommittee Working Group was struck to review technical specifications for 13 measurement concepts deemed to be potential, actionable indicators. After review, it was agreed that four (4) indicators are not measurable/directional at this point in time. These indicators were further categorized as potential explanatory indicators. As a next step, the Working Group has been asked to refine the remaining 9 indicators as well as rank the top five (5) indicators which will be brought forward for consideration by the Provincial Steering Committee.

A Patient and Caregiver Experience Working Group has also been coordinated as part of the Data and Performance Subcommittee. This group recently presented an overview of the Caregiver VOICES survey developed and administered by McMaster University, and piloted across 6 CCACs in Ontario. The survey can measure experience across various health care settings, including home care, hospice and others. As a next step, the group recommended that the survey be further explored for the purposes of evaluating patient experience at the end-of-life, as well as the bereaved caregiver experience. The group is currently developing a roll out plan, budget, and key milestone/activities to support this recommendation.

Subcommittee work to date has been presented at various conferences and an overall sense of stakeholder buy-in regarding the importance of measurement has been expressed. Subcommittee efforts to date are also in line with LHIN initiatives and Service Accountability Agreements.

- **Update from the Residential Hospices Working Group**

The Residential Hospices Working Group (RHWG) held a very successful research day on Friday, July 18, 2014 to facilitate direct interaction and dialogue between researchers, RHWG members, the leadership of other working groups, and ministry

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knowledge users and to build broad awareness of the body of research informing the advice of the RHWG.

In September, the Provincial Steering Committee will be updated on the emerging advice of the RHWG including the proposed planning and capacity models for strengthening the continuum of end of life care in Ontario. Additional focus groups are being planned for Fall 2014. The RHWG report is on track for being finalized in Fall 2014.

If you are currently undertaking some work on palliative care that is aligned with the above priorities or any priorities from the Declaration document, please contact us below to share your update.

QUESTIONS?

For more information on the Hospice Palliative Care Provincial Steering Committee, please contact:

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