



COMMUNITY HEALTH NURSES' *Initiatives Group* Newsletter

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President's Message

BY RUTH SCHOFIELD



RUTH SCHOFIELD, PRESIDENT

CHNIG- taking action on issues affecting community health nursing

CHNIG IS A GROUP OF ONTARIO REGISTERED NURSES THAT OFFER PROVINCIAL AND NATIONAL PERSPECTIVES TO NURSES PRACTICING IN THE COMMUNITY.

www.chnig.org

Since the spring of 2006, the CHNIG executive has been very active as the voice of community health nurses in Ontario on three significant reports impacting the future of community health nurses with the following key messages:

Letter to Minister Smitherman on July 10, 2006 Revitalizing Ontario's Public Health Capacity: The Final Report of the Capacity Review Committee

- legislating changes to Health Promotion and Protection Act to include an appointed Chief Nursing Officer in each Ontario public health unit,
- advocating for distinct roles, functions and skills of the Medical Officer of Health and CEO in public health units,
- strengthening healthy work environments strategies, and
- once again repeating the need to strike a balance in the reinvestment of resources between infectious diseases and health promotion approaches that address the determinants of health

Letter to Minister Smitherman on July 11, 2006: Choosing Quality, Rewarding Experience: Ontario's Response to Caplan Report on Homecare

- Urging the Minister to use mandatory criteria for determining preferred provider status in home health nursing,
- investing in IT support at the agency level, and
- strengthening the identification and knowledge translation of best practices in home health nursing

Submission to the Ontario Women's Health Council, July 2006: Maternity Care in Ontario 2006: Emerging Crisis, Emerging Solutions

- Enhancing the maternity care recommendations with inclusion of health promotion approaches by public health nursing across the continuum of care to address social determinants of health in the new mandatory health programs

For further details on these responses, see the CHNIG website. Many thanks to Doris Grinspun for her wisdom on political strategy, Lynn Anne Mulrooney and Sheila Block for their very competent skills and support in crafting these critical briefs and letters, and CHNIG executive members: Lorraine Vandenberg, Kim Dalla Bona, Susan Starling, Marlene Slepko and Marilyn Evans for their practice and academic expertise, and several CHNIG members and public health nursing leaders for their wisdom.

Over

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President's Message (cont'd)

BY RUTH SCHOFIELD

CHNIG, a co-sponsor with CHNAC, is actively involved with the planning of our 1st National Community Health Nurses Conference, "Mapping the Future for Better Health", May 3-5, 2007. My thanks to many CHNIG executive members on the planning committee: Dr. Cathy Ward Griffin, Kim Dalla Bono, Dr. Marilyn Evans, Marlene Slepkov, Martina Cuillerier, Sue Starling, Cheryl Reid-Haughian, Mary LaChapelle, Lorraine Vandenberg, Yvette Laforet-Fliesser, past president of CHNIG, and Lee Zinkan-McKee, former CHNIG executive member.

CHNIG is excited to support knowledge translation strategies for the Canadian Community Health Nursing (CCHN) standards of practice. The CCHN standards toolkit will soon be available in electronic version. See www.chnac.ca A workshop with

community health nursing practice leaders and educators to engage in the application of toolkit resources was held on October 25, 2006 as a pre-conference workshop at the annual OPHA Conference in Cornwall. Further details about this workshop will be in the next newsletter.

Another key policy change influencing public health nursing is the mandatory health program review. The Ministry of Health and Long Term Care, Public Health Division, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health Promotion are modifying the Mandatory Health Program and Services Guidelines. CHNIG requested and have received an invitation to participate in the stakeholder consultation.

Core competencies are defined as the set of cross cutting skills, knowledge and abilities necessary for the broad practice of public health. These skills are common to all public health professionals and transcend the boundaries of individual disciplines. They are fundamental to delivering core public health services.

Shape It. Teach It. Practice It.

Public Health Core Competencies Initiative

OPHA's Public Health Core Competencies Initiative is pleased to present the Public Health Core Competencies Learning Modules. The purpose of these modules is to increase engagement and discussion across the public health workforce around the draft core competencies for public health as well as their application and implications for public health.

These modules have gone through a peer review process with public health professionals actively engaged in the core competencies work to date, as well as a pilot evaluation process.

We expect that public health professionals have different levels of understanding of the history, background and knowledge of the

draft core competencies for public health. Therefore, these modules are designed in sections. You can either move from one section to the next in a linear progression or you can select to review any section that interests you. Use these modules on your own or incorporate them into team meetings!

Take some time to learn about core competencies for public health and how they will impact you. The Public Health Core Competencies Learning Modules may be found on the OPHA website under 'Resources' or by clicking on the link below.

<http://www.opha.on.ca/projects/phcci/tools/learning/>

Capacity Review Committee Report

What are PHN's saying about recommendations in the final CRC report?

BY RUTH SCHOFIELD

First I want to thank the many public health nurses who in short notice participated by offering their honest and very valuable comments in the email survey. CHNIG in collaboration with RNAO invited CNIG (Childbirth Nurse Interest Group), CHNIG and non-RNAO members who were public health nurses to participate in a survey in June to inform our response to the Capacity Review Committee final report.

Go to www.health.gov.on.ca/ then click on search and type in Capacity Review Report to access a copy of the report.

More than 85 public health nurses responded to the survey. The findings of the survey indicated that amalgamations would bring many positive and negative nursing implications. Positive impacts identified were: greater capacity for research with linkages to PHRED, more consistent, efficiency and new service delivery models, and opportunities for collaborative practice, professional development, and nursing leadership resulting in better services to offer the community. Despite many positive potential changes, several negative impacts of amalgamations were reported.

Nurses expressed many threats: uncertainty, stress, fear of job loss especially in management, remuneration changes, small health units "being swallowed up" by larger health units, service loss and disruption especially in smaller health units, and change in service delivery models, in administration and in nursing practices.

Public health nurses recommended many strategies to support the transformation in public health. The key strategies were: strong, supportive and knowledgeable nursing leadership at various levels locally and provincially, nursing networks internal and external, inclusive decision making, role clarity and protection, and transparent, consistent communication.

Strategies to strengthen nursing leadership described recapturing the value of nursing identity and leadership in public health and identifying qualities of strong leadership as supportive, participative, experienced, decision makers, mentor, advocate and collaboration with other disciplines.

Many public health nurses were very pleased for the opportunity to contribute to the CRC response through the survey.

Membership Alert

Don't forget to renew your membership for 2007 to RNAO. here is how to renew your membership:

1. If you have requested it, your membership will be renewed automatically. If you are using a credit card, it will be charged around October 15. It's not too late to request automatic renewal of your membership from Home Office. Automatic renewal is a great way to avoid renewal paperwork and ensure continuous legal protections.
2. All other members are sent a secure online renewal email (with the option to login and renew on the RNAO site) as well as a more traditional paper renewal form by mail.

If you have not renewed yet, please don't hesitate to do so to minimize any disruption in your RNAO benefits!

Correction

Summer 2006 Issue:

Cheryl Reid-Haughian was inadvertently left off, as author of the article "Writing the First National Certification Exam", correct version will be posted on the new CHNIG website in November.



1st National Conference for Community Health Nurses: Mapping the Future for Better Health

With nurses being at the core of community health, you have no excuse to miss the first ever National Community Health Nursing Conference being held in your home province! The conference theme “Leadership, Innovation & Integration” is perfect for home health and public health professionals of all backgrounds. A teamwork production by CHNIG and CHNAC, this interactive 3 day conference features exhibits, posters and appealing concurrent sessions geared to promote excellence in community nursing practice, strengthen professional networks and provide a national perspective on community health. The much-talked-about CHN Standards toolkit and the CHN certification exam experience are only two of the engaging sessions for you to participate in. Keynote speakers such as Joan Reiter and impressive talks from other influential nurses across Canada will make this conference a sure success; you won't want to miss it! If staying overnight, take a chance to walk around and enjoy the beautifully landscaped grounds of the Westin Prince Hotel, the stunning venue hosting our conference and superb banquet dinner. Hope to see you there!

The conference is being held May 3-5, 2007. Registration information coming soon.



Community Health Nurses
Association of Canada



Community Health
Nurses Initiative Group

invite you to
mark these dates

may 3 to 5, 2007

for the

**1st National Conference for
Community Health Nurses:
Mapping the Future for Better Health**
Innovation • Leadership • Integration

To be held at the beautiful Westin Prince Hotel, Toronto
Details to be posted shortly on our websites
www.chnac.ca • www.chnig.org
or phone our national office at
First Stage Enterprises 416-426-7029

In the News

Health Canada announces \$8.1 million for NurseOne Portal. NurseOne is a bilingual Portal contains a wealth of health information for the Canadian public and for all nurses across Canada. This Portal allows nurses to obtain information on all aspects of health care - from public health alerts, to consultations with experts and health specialists, to best practices. It has been in development by the CNA since 2002. Visit www.nurseone-inf-fusion.ca.

Four public health units have been selected to receive funding as pilot sites to implement Phase 11 of the ANDSOOHA/PHRED Nursing Mentorship Initiative: the Evaluation of a System-Wide mentoring Initiative for Public Health Nursing in Ontario. The units are:

- Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit from the Central West
- Sudbury and District Health Unit from Northern Ontario
- Leed, Grenville and Lanark District Health Unit from Eastern Ontario representing a mainly rural population
- Ottawa Public Health, Eastern Ontario representing a mainly urban population

Visit www.lhins.on.ca to access the Local Health System Integration Act 2006. Look for future articles in the CHNIG Newsletter on the LHIN structure as it impacts community health nursing in Ontario.

The next round of CNA certification exams are scheduled for April 14th, 2007. The deadline for applications to write these exams is November 17th, 2006. Please see the article on page 11 in the October 2006 Canadian Nurse Journal for more information about CNA certification exams and also visit the CNA website www.cna-nurses.ca, click on the certification tab on the left hand side and you will find detailed information about competencies, a study group manual and what study groups are available around the province.

Watch for the new and improved CHNIG website launching this fall.





Team Reports

Professional Practice Team Report

BY LORRAINE VANDENBERG & KIM DALLA BONA

Since we have started our positions on the CHNIG executive we have been busy collaborating with RNAO and our colleagues on a press release and forming responses to reports and background papers. Look for these responses on our new website this fall. Work to date includes:

- May 4, 2006; participated in writing a press release in response to the release of Revitalizing Ontario's Public Health Capacity: The Final Report of the Capacity Review Committee.
- May 12, 2006; responded to Areilla Lang and Nancy Edwards' paper on "Safety in Home Care: A Background Paper for Round Table Discussion"
- May 25, 2006; organized a collective response on thoughts for future Best Practice Guidelines and e-learning modules
- July 10, 2006; collaborated with RNAO, ANDSOOHA, other CHNIG executive members, and colleagues on a letter to Minister Smitherman on Revitalizing Ontario's Public Health Capacity: The Final Report of the Capacity Review Committee
- July 11, 2006; co-ordinated a response Minister Smitherman on Choosing Quality, Rewarding Experience: Ontario's Response to Caplan Report on Homecare
- July, 2006; contributed to the response on Submission to Ontario Women's Health Council Maternity Care in Ontario 2006: Emerging Crisis, Emerging Solutions

Look for links to these reports in November in the *members only* section of the new and improved CHNIG website www.chnig.org 🌟

Ongoing work includes:

- Resolution #7: Baby Friendly Initiative with CNIG and PedNIG
- Resolution #8: Sexual Orientation
- Resolution #9: School Health

We would love to hear from you. If you have any thoughts or comments on Community Health Nursing practice in Ontario please contact

Kim Dalla Bona:

kdallabona@saintelizabeth.com

or Lorraine Vandenberg:

lorraine.vandenberg@mlhu.on.ca



Membership Benefits Team

BY MARTINA CUILLERIER:

CHNIG is over 2000 members strong with our current membership of 2088 (RNs=1411, students= 677). Martina looks forward to keeping the CHNIG membership up-to-date with the soon-arriving May 2007 National Community Health Nursing Conference, of which CHNIG is a co-host.

Martina sits on the Publicity Committee for this conference planning team and has been actively involved in teleconferencing to kickstart the promotional aspect of this Toronto-based event. Even though Nursing Week has long-passed, Martina encourages all members to contact her if they wish to display the CHNIG pop-up display at an event or at their workplace.

If interested in borrowing the CHNIG display or ordering CHNIG t-shirts, don't hesitate to contact Martina at martinap2000@hotmail.com. 🌟

Team Reports

Education and Research Team Report

TEAM LEADER-CATHERINE WARD-GRIFFIN

As in past years, there are a number of grants available to our members who are seeking funds for educational bursaries (due Sept 30th), research (due Jan 31st), and seed projects (due June 30th). We invite you to submit an application for any or all of these awards.

The 1st National Conference for Community Health Nurses (May3-5, 2007) has been the major focus of the Education and Research Team. As Chair of the Program Committee, I am excited to say that we have many renowned speakers for this conference, including Joan Reiter, Judith Shamian, Nancy Edwards, Lynette Stamler, Marlene Smadu and Rosemary Goodyear.

In addition, four pre-conferences that focus on the Community Health Standards, E-health, Home Health and Core Competencies. The deadline for submissions for abstracts is October 27, 2006. We are looking forward to making this first conference a wonderful experience for all! ❁

Communication Team Report

BY BEA MCDONOUGH

Since June of 2006 the communication committee has been busy. I'm sure you all have noticed that the CHNIG website requires an overhaul and we are in the process of developing a new and improved website. Look for the unveiling in early November! There will be a student page, access to our newsletters, links to other relevant sites and a members section where you will be able to access copies of all the reports, position statements and documents CHNIG has prepared in response to issues

on your behalf as well as a members voice section where you can comments on issues.

We also are moving to an online version of our newsletter, so please register your email with the RNAO so we can email out the notice of when the most recent newsletters will be on our website and look for the newsletters on our website www.chnig.org in November!

We have also developed CHNIG business cards to be used at conferences, events. Contact Martina for more information about how to access these.

I also wish to thank my committee/editorial board consisting of the following members for all their hard work so far this year: Faye Parascandelo, Hamilton Public Health, Erin MacLean, CCAC Hamilton and Katie Dilworth, Toronto Public Health .

We would be pleased to hear from you about the new website or anything else!



Student Team Report

BY NATALIE CAMERON

Hello CHNIG nursing students! My name is Natalie Cameron, and myself along with Katie Connolly are the current student representatives for CHNIG. As student reps we attend the executive meetings and bring forth a student's perspective. At the last meeting held in June we voted that goal #5 of the CHNIG Mission Statement would be to engage student involvement within community health nursing and the interest group. Some of the ways we plan to achieve this goal is to have the student reps connect with NSO to communicate the goals of CHNIG and to establish a link with NSO executive. Also, we are adding a student column to the newsletter along with a student section on CHNIG's website. We're looking for ideas as to what students want to see in the newsletter and on the website, and what students would find relevant. Feel free to contact me by email with any suggestions at ncameron@trentu.ca. I'm looking forward to this year as one of your student representatives! ❁

Upcoming Events

2007 Nursing Leadership Conference

Organization: Academy of Canadian Executive Nurses, Canadian Association of Schools of Nursing, Canadian College of Health Service Executives, Canadian Healthcare Association, Canadian Nurses Association and Canadian Public Health Association

February 4-6, 2007
Ottawa Congress Centre

613-237-2133, ext. 214 or 1-800-361-8404
Contact: Debbie Ross

The National Healthcare Leadership Conference INNOVATION IN HEALTH SERVICES—

FROM LOCAL LEADERSHIP TO NATIONAL PERFORMANCE

Co-hosts: Canadian College of Health Service Executives (CCHSE) & Canadian Healthcare Association (CHA).

June 11-12, 2007
To be held in Toronto

Submission deadline: December 1, 2006

Of Interest

www.cna-aiic.ca

See article on CNA website titled Ethics in Nursing Practice, February 2006,- Public Health Nursing Practice and Ethical Challenges for a great summary of Public Health ethics and how this applies to nursing practice.

www.chnet-works.ca

CHNET-Works is pleased to announce a wonderful series of Fireside Chats for autumn 2006.

Fridays 1:00-2:30 pm Eastern Daylight/Standard Time.

Oct 13th - CHNET-Works! Stairs Photo Gallery- Cooperative;

October 20th - Using Technology in Health Promotion; **October 27th**- Built Environments and the role of Community Health;

Nov 10th- Social Justice- What is it? How to measure it? Is this an essential item for the new Core Competencies?,

Nov 24th - Activity and Aging- creating a culture supportive of Physical Activity in Long Term Care in Ontario;

Dec 1st - A population health approach to healthy weights;

Dec 8th - Built Environments and the role of Community Health - following up the October Fireside Chat.

Formore information and to register - go to www.chnet-works.ca and click on Fireside Chats

CHNIG Newsletter

Look for an update in the next newsletter from the Workshop in Cornwall on using the Community Health Nursing Standards Toolkit held on Oct 25th, 2006

Communications Corner

Beatrice McDonough, the CHNIG newsletter editor welcomes your suggestions and comments regarding the CHNIG newsletter at bmcdonou@hamilton.ca

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