

Ontario Working Group on Early Intervention in Psychosis
Minutes

March 1, 2006

Venue: The Hilton, Toronto.

Present: Michelle Dupee, Mary Lynn Porto, Sabrina Baker, Andrea Levinson, Janice Harris, Robert Zipursky, Tom Hall, Jean Addington, Jason Gower, Allyson Susko, Mirella Fata, Stephen Cheng, Kari Astles, Deborah Deacon, Karin Jablonowski, Gord Langill, Troy Savage, Kola Oyewumi, Ian Chovil, Catherine Bancroft, Amy Capern, Sue McLeish, Stephanie McDermid Vaz, Heather Hobbs, Karen O' Connor, Michelle Rehder, Barbara Crawford, Lundi Costante, Suzanne Archie, Helen Fishburn, John Trainor (Chair), Nalini Pandalangat (Recorder)

1. Round Table Update:

Guelph : The Community Mental Health Clinic in Guelph is in the process of establishing its E.I. program. They are posting positions to cover three geographic areas.

Hamilton: The satellite sites of the Cleghorn E.I. program are functioning well. At a recent meeting with the Ministry, the program has been asked to initiate talks with Brant in the Central South about having a satellite clinic there. Two family educators have been hired. The program shares a very fraternal relationship with the E.I. program in CMHA Thunderbay through mentoring, consultation and collaboration.

North East Region: Twelve FTEs from a variety of disciplines have been hired – social workers, child and youth workers, nurses etc. They are geographically dispersed. The central office in North Bay is looking closely at training needs and assessment tools.

CMHA Toronto: The MOD team has hired 8 clinicians. They have a part time psychiatrist. The team offers both community and clinic based services. They work closely with the Mood and Anxiety Program at CAMH. CMHA is also working with CAMH towards the development of an E.I. network for Toronto.

PEPP Family Group: The first family conference is being organized in May 2006. They had a big fund raising event where around \$46,000/- has been raised. Every Saturday there is a family workshop for new families. The numbers attending have increased substantially. The last workshop was attended by 25 families. The family group meets on the third Wednesday of every month.

SSO (Central), MDAO and FORP: The three organizations have received funding for hiring family workers and are currently in the process of hiring. They will be working together. With specific reference to the funding in the Toronto region, the organizations will work closely with CMHA and LEARN

LEARN : An exceptionally successful family workshop was offered by Sabrina Baker to conference participants on February 28th. This was made possible through the one time OWG funding. A panel of 6 family members enriched the workshop.

Kingston: The South Eastern Ontario District E.I. Program continues to build capacity. 6 case workers have been placed within the satellites. Tele psychiatry services are offered in 5 sites across the region. The annual conference is set for Friday March 31st. This is an open conference to families and consumers.

Peterborough: 2 FTEs have been hired in the LYNX program. 1 FTE in the other 4 sites. They are talking with the Ministry for additional staff. The experience of EPI in rural districts was highlighted as an aspect warranting further attention. A family support group is being run by the program.

CMHA-York Region: This is a recent program. At present 1 nurse, 2 social workers and 2 case managers have been recruited. A psychiatrist has also been recruited. The staff attended training offered by FEPP(CAMH) and CMHA. The program has already started seeing clients.

Windsor: Hiring has been completed for the SEPP program. A six- week healthy living program is being offered presently. A caregivers support group has also been initiated. Short- term family intervention of 4-6 weeks is offered. In the recent fundraising event, the program raised \$180,000/-!!

North West: CMHA Thunder bay is in the program development phase. A building site to house the program has been finalized. Further training with the Hamilton program is underway. The clinical program is taking shape.

Toronto: FEPP-CAMH. All teams and services continue to move along. Recently through the one time OWG funding, the program hosted an E.I. education day for a number of Toronto programs.

Peel: FACT PEEL has hired 2 RN case managers. A partnership with CMHA Peel, and SHIP has been initiated. The program is working with FAME presently. They are hosting an education day for new teams.

Toronto: Mood and Anxiety Program CAMH. The E.I. component of the program started in the end of September 2005. There are 4 inpatient beds, which are always at capacity. There are 3 consults a week offered by a part time psychiatrist. The program is in the process of developing a research initiative and is currently following 30 clients.

Sarnia: CMHA – The E.I. program is in the developmental stage. Two full time staff have been hired to do E.I. work with clients. One RN has been hired. There is no psychologist at present. The program is initiating a community detection program.

However they are concerned about going full fledged on it as we do not have services to meet the demand. A peer support group for consumers has also been initiated.

2. Upcoming Funding:

The E.I. funding which is out of the Federal Provincial Accord is over a 4 year cycle. So there are 2 more years of new money left. There was some confusion around whether it was possible to hire a full-time psychiatrist through the accord funding, and it was clarified that the funding allowed only sessional dollars. Programs have been talking to their regional offices about the next round of funding. In Peterborough the regional office indicated an enhancement of \$300,000/- to the program. The regional office in Hamilton is encouraging the Hamilton program to expand fast, so that funding decisions can be implemented before the regional offices closing down. In the Central West Region, it has been indicated that the funding will be through 2 different LHINS for the region. John encouraged the group to contact their respective regional offices as funding decisions are being made right now.

3. LHINS: With the Health Regions closing in September and LHINS taking over, there was a discussion around devising a strategy to work with the LHINS and push the E.I. agenda forward. Karen O'Connor talked about a LHIN CEO attending an ACTT team meeting. What sparked interest was the data that the ACTT team had to offer. So the group talked about presenting data from the 4 site study funded through OMHF to the LHINS. There would be some positive data around hospitalization, one year rehospitalisation and cost effectiveness. It was discussed whether we could have a subcommittee struck to plan this and to have a one day retreat to plan a strategy around working with the LHINS and arriving at a consensus regarding a common data set that could be implemented by all programs.

4. Letter advocating for rate increases to the ODSP: Sue McLeish from the PEPP parent group distributed a letter sent by Ursula Lipski regarding ODSP advocacy and encouraged the group to send off this letter to their respective MPPs.

5. Standards Advisory Team (SAT) - Ministry of Health: A standards committee for E.I. has been formed by the Ministry. A number of members of the Working Group are part of this team. The SAT takes direction from the provincial policy framework on E.I. The OWG has received funding to monitor the administrative aspects of the SAT team. At this time, the first draft of the standards is being drawn.

6. Ontario Working Group Website: The OWG website has been created. It will be up and running soon. CAMH will offer technical support to the website. There will be a member login area as well. Gregory Kim and Alan Tang will walk conference participants through the website on March 3rd, the second day of the conference.

7. Early Episode Psychosis Training Program: Barbara Crawford talked about the training program delivered for family physicians through a project put together by Addictions Ontario and CMHA. They developed a model wherein family doctors were trained, who in turn will train other family doctors.

8. Training Committee Update: Mirella informed the group that Linda Wowk and Kim Johnson offered two workshops as part of the Institute. It was very well received. She also talked about repository resources on the website under different headings.

Next Meeting: May 26, 2006.