

Toronto Central LHIN Dementia Care Project

Background

The Toronto Central Local Health Integration Network (TC-LHIN) Aging at Home Strategy has sponsored the Alzheimer Society of Toronto (AST) to undertake the Toronto Dementia Care Project.

The purpose of this project is to:

- * identify dementia-specific community support services and service gaps in dementia care in the Toronto Central LHIN
- * map current referral methods and client access points for dementia care for persons with suspected memory issues; Mild Cognitive Impairment (MCI); early-stage dementia; mid-stage dementia; and late stage dementia
- * recommend improvements for improved access and navigation of dementia services for persons with dementia and their partners in care.

This project compliments two related TC-LHIN projects – the Community Navigation & Access Project (CNAP), and the Seniors' Mental Health and Addiction Services – Community Framework project (CSMHAS) – which you may have been a part of. This project will also build (with permission) on foundation materials from the B.C. Interior Health's Phased Dementia Pathway project and thereby limit the need for lengthy and complex re-conceptualization of person-centered navigational approaches to dementia care.

In this connection, the Toronto Dementia Network (utilizing the CNAP and C-SMHAS definitions) has further noted 15 *Core Dementia-Specific Services* for which two key components have been identified:

- 1.) **Core Dementia Services are central to the well-being and care of people with dementia and their caregivers**
- 2.) **Core Dementia Services are provided, throughout the continuum of dementia, by staff with dementia specific training, knowledge and skills.**

We would like to interview your organization regarding core dementia services utilized by persons with dementia and their partners in care (please see next page for a list of core services). Interview findings will highlight the flow of persons with dementia and their partners in care through the Toronto Central LHIN region, and inform the development of standardized care paths for core dementia-specific services.

A member of our interview team will contact your organization shortly to set up a time to interview you or another suitable representative regarding these services. Depending on the number and types of core service offerings, we estimate interviews will range from 20 to 40 minutes of your time.

For future reference a copy of this background and the types of services we will be inquiring is posted on the Toronto Dementia Network website: www.dementiatoronto.org. If you are a member of the Toronto Dementia Network it would be helpful if you would take a few minutes on the website to review the information currently listed about your organization and its service offerings prior to the interview.

Your time is very valuable and we thank you in advance for your help and participation in this TC-LHIN Dementia Care Initiative. We look forward to the valuable insight and contributions your organization can make to this project.

If you have any questions about this project, please do not hesitate to contact Frances Morton, the Dementia Care Project Lead at elder.coach@hotmail.com or by phone at (416) 422-1292.

Sincerely
Frances Morton
Dementia Care Project Lead
P: (416) 422-1292
E: elder.coach@hotmail.com

Core Dementia Services* in Toronto Central LHIN to Be Discussed:

1. **Adult Day Programs for Persons with Dementia**
2. **Adult Day Programs with Overnight Stay for Persons with Dementia**
3. **Assistive Living (e.g., Supportive Housing) for Persons with Dementia**
4. **Dementia Specific Case-Management and Counseling**
5. **Dementia Specific Education (e.g., Internal or External Training)**
6. **Support Groups for Families and Other Individuals or Caring for Persons with Dementia**
7. **Support Groups for Persons with Dementia**
8. **Dementia Specific Personal Care / Personal Support**
9. **Dementia Specific Homemaking / Home Help**
10. **Dementia Specific Respite (e.g., Relief for caregivers of persons with dementia from care responsibilities)**
11. **Dementia Specific Friendly Visiting**
12. **Memory Clinic for Persons with Dementia**
13. **In-patient Behavioral Assessment Unit for Persons with Dementia (e.g., hospital/health centre/ rehabilitation centre)**
14. **Behavioural Unit in a Long-Term-Care Facility for Persons with Dementia**
15. **Dementia Unit in a Long-Term Care Facility**

*** Core Dementia Services are identified by two key components:**

1. *The are central to the well-being and care of people with dementia and their caregivers*
2. *They are provided, throughout the continuum of dementia, by staff with dementia specific skills, training, knowledge and skills.*