

Toronto Dementia Network

Minutes of the Seventh Meeting of the Steering Committee Held on November 25, 2003 At the Toronto District Health Council

Present

Rory Fisher (Co-chair)	Regional Geriatric Program
Françoise Hébert (Co-chair)	Alzheimer Society of Toronto
Carole Cohen	Dementia LINC, Sunnybrook and Women's
Pam Goldsilver	Comprehensive Rehabilitation and Mental Health Services
Eric Hong	Whitby Mental Health Centre
Rhona Phillips	Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care
Terry Collins	Ontario Long Term Care Association

Staff

Angela Mendez	Database Consultant, Toronto Dementia Network
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Regrets

Amanda Falotico	Providence Centre (OCSA)
Vija Mallia	Castleview Wychwood Home for the Aged (OANHSS)
Rena Postoff	West Park Health Care Centre
Joy Richards	Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care
David Ryan	Psychogeriatric Resource Consultant Program
Marta Krywonis	Etobicoke-York CCAC

1. Welcome and Introductions

Dr Fisher welcomed those present. He noted that F. Teplitsky has moved to Victoria and will be replaced by Cori Ross. F. Hébert will write a letter to Fern thanking her for her exceptional contribution to the Steering Committee.

2. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved

3. Approval of Minutes of September 9, 2003

The minutes of the meeting of September 9, 2003 were approved.

4. Steering Committee Membership:

F. Hébert read a letter of resignation from caregiver Marilyn Pearson, whose family situation now makes it difficult to attend meetings. Mrs. Pearson questioned the need for a caregiver on such a high level policy group. It was agreed to review this question at a later meeting, as part of a broader discussion on the composition of the Steering Committee. F. Hébert will write a letter of acceptance and regret to Marilyn. David Globerman will be replaced on the Steering Committee by Angie Szuch.

5. Budget Update

An updated budget was distributed.

6. Meeting with MOH Regional Director

F. Hébert and Dr. Fisher met with Marnie Weber, MOH Regional Director for Toronto on October 16, 2003. It was a very positive meeting. M. Weber was pleased at the work of the TDN, and promised to seek one-time funding to continue this work for one year. A \$55,000 proposal to continue current projects was presented to her and after discussion, was raised to \$80,000 to allow for additional projects. A description of projects and summary budget will be submitted, including administrative expenses not to exceed 15 per cent. To assure future funding, the association-representation model of the Steering Committee was questioned. Alternative models were discussed, such as the Ottawa Dementia Network and the Palliative Care Network in Toronto.

R. Phillips advised that after the meeting, M. Weber asked the Regional Geriatric Program to use some of their surplus to fund the TDN. The RGP chair agreed, subject to RGP Board approval. The RGP will act as banker for the TDN and the co-chairs will stay on for another year. Dr. Fisher, F. Hébert, R. Phillips and M. Awad (RGP Director of Administration and Information Technology) will meet to discuss administrative details.

7. Provincial Dementia Networks Meeting

F. Hébert reported on the meeting, which brought together representatives from the 36 dementia networks in Ontario. Dr. Fisher, Dr. Cohen, Dr. Ryan, F. Teplitsky and A. Falotico represented Toronto. F. Hébert attended in her capacity as a member of the provincial committee. Sessions on the Community Consultation Project were given by Dr Ryan and on Dementia Toronto Online by M. Padjen and A. Mendes. Dr. Cohen gave a poster session. The Ontario Dementia Network web site was launched and can be found at www.alzheimeront.org. Dr. Cohen reported that sustainability of the networks was a key issue at the conference.

8. Dementia Toronto Online

A Mendez distributed a report on the web site. Three new services have been added to the taxonomy: Addiction, Live-in Caregivers and Financial Assurance for Families. The number of hits continues to increase, especially by non-professionals. Dr. Cohen pointed out that although it is difficult, we need to evaluate how useful caregivers are finding the information on the web site.

It was agreed that:

- *Dementia Facts* and the link to Alzheimer Society of Canada should be prominent.
- *Frequently Asked Questions* and *Case Vignettes* would be developed.
- A *Calendar* of training and education sessions would be added.
- *Decision Trees* would be investigated. Some exist already for driving and consent capacity and for legal matters.
- *Ask an Expert* was not endorsed because of negative past experiences of medical professionals, and the reluctance of experts to give advice to people they haven't met.

9. Community Consultation Project

Consultation sessions with professionals will continue until December. In January consultations will focus on caregivers. Eric Hong shared David Ryan's summaries of the North Scarborough and Toronto sessions. Service and knowledge gaps were identified in each community, with similarities and differences outlined. A full report on professional consultations will be presented to the Steering Committee at the next meeting.

10. Next Steps and Evaluation of Activities

The web site has been informally evaluated positively. The community consultation will be evaluated when the final report is received. Dr. Fisher will look at the structure of the Ottawa Dementia Network. F. Hébert will contact Carrie McCainey (who is evaluating the complete Alzheimer Strategy) to see if she has suggestions on how our Steering Committee can evaluate itself.

11. Next Meeting

February 10, 2004 at 10:00 a.m. at TDHC