



Algoma

PUBLIC HEALTH

Santé publique Algoma

**MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH/CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
BOARD REPORT
May 2014**

Prepared by Dr. Kimberley Barker MD CCFP MPH FRCPC

Table of Contents

Transitional Time at APH	Page 3
Risk Management	Page 3-6
Program Highlights	Page 6-7
Partnerships	Page 7-8
Next Steps	Page 8

TRANSITIONAL TIME AT APH

Algoma Public Health is now approaching their ninth month of new leadership following a fairly significant and abrupt change in core leadership roles. The Agency is very aware of the challenges that face an organization with respect to changing directions, priorities and expectations. Broadly speaking there are three areas that better describe the current organization and its status, meeting client needs, meeting staff needs, and addressing the future of Algoma Public Health.

Client/patient needs are at the center of our work at Algoma Public Health. We are currently evaluating a Client Centered Care survey that directly asked patients and clients about their experiences with us. We will look forward to sharing this with the board. Recognizing that many of our clients are located in the downtown core, we are excited about our new relationship with the Gore and Albert Street site of the police who are providing us with free space to reach our clients.

Supporting staff through this time of change is central to maintain staff morale and enthusiasm for the future direction of APH. We have undertaken a variety of initiatives to support management to obtain tools and skills that will ensure that staff are supported by their managers to ensure that staff are a part of the change and not only the recipients of it.

As one of Algoma District's many players in the health care system, APH was delighted to be able to host a well-attended *Change Foundation* conference where it was announced that APH has been awarded the contract to lead health care organizations in the development of a *Health Links*.

1. RISK MANAGEMENT

COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAM

Road to Recovery House Project

Introduction

An opportunity exists for the development of a new and sustainable Road to Recovery Housing Project (RRHP). The goal of the project is to establish a new 'recovery-focused' housing project for mental health consumers located in Sault Ste. Marie, involving partnerships between: APH - Community Mental Health Program, Canadian Mental Health Association (SSM Branch), North Bay Regional Health Centre-Homes for Special Care, and The Ministry of Health and Long Term Care. The partnership proposed also includes a third party housing provider in the capacity as

landlord. Funding for the in-house programming will be provided by the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care to APH who will act as coordinator and program administrator of the home.

Background

According to the Ontario Market Analysis Center, as of July 2013 Sault Ste. Marie experiences the second lowest vacancy rate in Ontario. Unfortunately, this creates serious risk of homelessness for marginalized populations like those dealing with serious mental illness. In addition, existing gaps in our community for permanent supportive housing are forcing clients to remain in both our regional and local hospital(s) awaiting Alternative Levels of Care. Many are forced into nursing homes although in a supported housing model, they could maintain community tenure.

Comments

As the MOHLTC designated Mental Health & Addiction Housing Initiatives agency for Algoma, APH has been delivering the mental health and addiction rent supplement program as well as coordinating and partnering in a variety of supportive housing initiatives since 2001 throughout the District. We have also worked with landlords and sector partners to establish several short-term transitional apartments and a phase II semi-supported shared-living residence. These initiatives have been very successful and are based on consumer identified need and APH commitment to partnering to ensure a continuum of mental health housing options in Algoma.

Project /Financial Implications

Private landlords who have shown an interest in developing housing options for the mentally ill have been invited to the established RRHP Joint Agency Committee. The prospective landlord will partner with RRHP Joint Agency Committee by providing a 6 bedroom facility which meets local zoning bylaws and building codes, and will be responsible to residents of the home as their landlord. If for any reason the landlord cannot meet their commitment to their prospective tenants (continue to provide them with a residence), APH - CMH would be responsible for assisting clients in finding alternative housing as is our current practice.

Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA) peer support staff will provide the daily assistance needed in the home. APH-CMH will be responsible for providing coordination of the overall programming and management and flow of dollars associated with the project. Algoma Public Health will receive an additional \$127,977 in annualized funding from the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care to support the purchase of peer support staff (contract fee for service from CMHA) and for project materials and supplies.

Staffing Implications

None

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH/CHRONIC DISEASE PREVENTION PROGRAMS

Tanning Bed Legislation (Skin Cancer Prevention Act)

Notice:

On May 1, 2014 the Skin Cancer Prevention Act (Tanning Beds) came into force. Youth under the age of 18 years will no longer be allowed to access tanning services or ultraviolet light treatments for tanning.

Summary

There are currently 12 tanning bed operators in Algoma that are now subject to an inspection where the tanning services or ultraviolet light treatments for tanning are offered for sale. Enforcement will be complaints driven and conducted during operating hours. Currently all personal service settings such as tanning salons are inspected annually by Public Health Inspectors who are also designated as inspectors and will conduct the inspections/investigate complaints. A health promotion strategy is being planned including adding an insert into the "Be Spa Safe" booklet and creating an education and awareness campaign for the high schools in the district of Algoma.

Comments

This legislation was implemented to reduce the rates of skin cancer and protect youth from ultraviolet light. It restricts advertising, requires warnings to be posted and limits the age of those using tanning beds. The Ontario Public Health Standards, 2008 have been amended to reflect the new requirements and a new Tanning Beds Compliance Protocol 2014 are available for review at

http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/publichealth/oph_standards/default.aspx.

Financial Implications

Currently the inspections will be complaint driven which should not be a significant increase in cost/time. Mailing information and providing health promotion and education will take staff time and printing/media resources.

Staffing Implications

Public Health Inspectors and Public Health Nurses chronic diseases/school teams are working together to bring the message and legislation to the public and to tanning bed operators. Increase work time on these projects will affect staffing resources for the implementation and dissemination stage this year.

2. PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

FAMILY HEALTH UPDATE

Family Health-Postpartum Mood Disorders

Postpartum Mood Disorders are real... 1 in 5 mothers will have a Postpartum Mood Disorder (PPMD).

Women and their families, who suffer from this common mental illness, often find difficulty in accessing appropriate services. They often find themselves navigating through a myriad of medical and social services, often being turned away with nothing. This is called the “postal code lottery” which is especially true for Northern Ontario. The lack of a coordinated comprehensive strategy and the many gaps that exist for families experiencing PPMD in Algoma contribute to the “postal code lottery”.

On May 2, 2014, Algoma Public Health was one of seven Northern sites that hosted a funding announcement event for the Northern Ontario Postpartum Mood Disorder Project. The Ontario Trillium Foundation announced that it has awarded a \$245,100 grant to support the *Phase Two* of the PPMD Project.

Algoma Public Health along with several community partners and local women with lived experience participated in *Phase One* of this project. A photo voice project was the inspiration and energy that brought forth the outcomes such as women self -identifying and offering their peer perspectives, and community education for over 500 professionals.

To view *Phase One* of this strategy please visit www.ppmmd.ca

Algoma Public Health is proud to have partnered in *Phase One* of this experience and looks forward to continued work towards the three recommendations that have emerged from this strategy:

- 1) End the suffering of families experiencing PPMD in Northeastern Ontario by investment in families
- 2) Competency building within communities and,
- 3) Education campaigns.

Phase Two will feature an indigenous photo voice project, a unique opportunity for new indigenous partnerships across Northern Ontario. A dynamic table of core agencies, across the District of Algoma, is dedicated to supporting *Phase Two* of the PPMD Project.

NURSING

National Nurses Week May 12-16, 2014

Nursing Week is a time to recognize the year-round dedication and achievements of Registered Nurses (RNs), Registered Practical Nurses (RPNs), and Nurse Practitioners (NPs); and to increase awareness of their contributions to the well-being of Canadians.

The theme this year for National Nurses week was “Nursing: A Leading Force for Change”. The Algoma Public Health Nursing Practice Council(NPC) is the council which is leading change for nursing within APH The Professional Development working group of the NPC has an activity plan which includes an important goal of promoting and cultivating awareness of Public Health Nursing.

On May 21, 2014, Algoma Public Health will be providing a luncheon to all nursing staff and an invitation has also been extended to Group Health Centre (GHC) nursing staff. From our affiliation we have new opportunities in our working partnership and the Nursing Practice Council thought that Nurses Week was a wonderful opportunity to include the nurses from the GHC. This lunch will bring together nurses from both the public health and primary care sectors and is viewed as an opportunity to promote and cultivate awareness of public health nursing, as well as an opportunity to learn from our nursing colleagues about their work and role in primary care.

The GHC nurses reciprocated and invited APH nursing staff to their Nurses Week celebration on May 13/14. This was a meet-and-greet function which allowed APH nurses to be welcomed by their colleagues and further enhance knowledge exchange regarding public health and primary care nursing.

This was a successful Nurses Week at APH and we look forward to continuing to promote and cultivate awareness of public health and public health nursing with our nursing colleagues and our communities.

3. PARTNERSHIPS

HEALTHY PARTNERS FOR HEALTHY CHILDREN: Meeting of Algoma CEOs HEALTH CARE

APH hosted a second meeting of Algoma District CEOs to identify how, collectively; our organization can develop healthy partnership activities with a vision of improved health outcomes for the children of Algoma. Another meeting is scheduled for June.

LOCAL HEALTH INTEGRATION NETWORK

The North East Local Health Integration Network is very supportive of the work we do in the areas of mental health and addictions and have been meeting with us to explore how we might enhance such services.

MUNICIPAL

APH was invited to participate at the Downtown Dialogue meeting with Mayor Amoroso where a number of relevant initiatives with respect to a healthy built environment including healthy housing and food security. We will continue to sit on this advisory group.

NEXT STEPS

During the month of June we will look forward to celebrating the terrific work of our staff at our annual Staff Day. The theme of partnership at this year's staff day will highlight many of the great satires that we have through our community partners. The Board of Health members would be a welcome addition to the day.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr Kim Barker, MD CCPF MPH FRCPC