Inspiring Teamwork
An Interprofessional Collaboration Workshop

The Centre for Collaborative Health Professional Education in partnership with the Eastern Regional Integrated Health Authority delivered a number of Interprofessional Collaboration Workshops during the winter semester. The goal of the one day workshop was to enhance participants’ knowledge, skills, and confidence in leading and participating as members of interprofessional teams.

Based on adult learning principles, the activities were designed to be interactive and relevant to interprofessional teamwork in various health care settings, such as child health, mental health, medicine, and surgery. Participants included medical faculty and residents, as well as nursing and allied health staff from Eastern Health.

Components of the workshop were also delivered to a number of Regional Quality Improvement Teams in the western region of the province, including teams for medical care, critical care, surgical care, long term care, ambulatory care, supportive care, maternal child care, and information management.

Feedback from workshop participants was overwhelmingly positive. Attendees particularly liked the small group interactions and the chance to learn about the expertise and roles of other health professionals. They reported that they felt inspired to work more closely with team members in the future.

Plans are underway to hold similar workshops during the fall and winter semesters in other program areas, such as women’s health and rehabilitative care.
Philippa Sully Lecture and Workshop

Philippa Sully, Acting Head, Department of Applied Social Sciences and Senior Lecturer, Interprofessional Practice at City University, London, U.K., is renowned for her research into the prevention of domestic violence homicide. In 2005, she was awarded the prestigious Assistant Commissioner’s Commendation by the London Metropolitan Police Service for her work in this area.

The Centre for Collaborative Health Professional Education sponsored a lecture in May by Ms. Sully who gave an overview of the Interprofessional Practice MSc Program offered at City University. She addressed the program’s theoretical framework and delivery. She also discussed the findings of an evaluation of its impact on practice.

The lecture was followed by an interactive workshop, entitled Working Across Professional Boundaries, which explored the nature of interprofessional team practice. Both the lecture and workshop were well attended by faculty and students.

Update on the Rural Mental Health Interprofessional Training Program

Olga Heath, PhD

After a year of providing in-person and video conference training in the interprofessional treatment of mental health issues, the Rural Mental Health Interprofessional Training Program (RMHITP) is winding down. Sessions have been completed in the six target communities (Placentia, Harbour Breton, Portaux-Basques, St. Anthony, Bonne Bay and Goose Bay) and an evaluation of the program is underway. Participant feedback has been very positive. In fact, we have received requests for similar programs to be held in other communities in both rural and urban areas.

A qualitative follow-up study on physician involvement in the RMHITP has been developed, approved by the ethics committee, piloted and data collection has already started. Mental health has been identified as an issue in numerous interprofessional training projects. Undoubtedly, this study will have national relevance.

Interprofessional Learning Blocks and Modules

Students learn importance of Interprofessional Teamwork

During the winter semester, students from the Faculty of Medicine, Centre for Nursing Studies, Western Regional School of Nursing, and the Schools of Pharmacy and Social Work took part in a pilot learning block entitled Professionalism in Interprofessional Teamwork. Through a series of online and face-to-face learning activities, students discussed the importance of interprofessional teamwork in the Canadian healthcare system, identified characteristics of effective team meetings, and discussed strategies for addressing dysfunctional teamwork behaviours.

Students also participated in interprofessional learning modules focusing on HIV/AIDS Care, Geriatric Care, and the Health and Wellbeing of Children. Plans are underway to offer five more modules and blocks this semester.
Spotlight on: The Eating Disorder Working Group Team
Mental Health and Addictions Program, Eastern Health
Olga Heath, PhD and Joanne Simms, RN, MN, NP

The Rural Mental Health Interprofessional Training Program (RMHTTP) team has partnered with the Provincial Eating Disorder Working Group and the Eating Disorder Foundation of Newfoundland and Labrador to develop an interprofessional training module for the topic of Eating Disorders.

Introduction
Eating disorders are complex illnesses with significant prevalence in Newfoundland and Labrador. In fact, over 7,000 people are at risk of developing an eating disorder in this province (Statistics Canada, 2002). Research has shown that interprofessional team management is the optimal approach to treat the bio-psycho-social consequences of this disorder. Within the provincial health care system, there are concerns about the availability of appropriate eating disorder services, particularly for adults. In an effort to address these concerns within Eastern Health, an interprofessional working group was developed.

History of the Eating Disorder Working Group Team
The Eating Disorder Working Group (EDWG) team has been a functioning working group for over five years, with clinical representatives from psychology, nursing, social work, adolescent and internal medicine, psychiatry, occupational therapy and clinical nutrition, as well as management.

The group was originally formed to address concerns about length of stay and clinical outcomes in the inpatient treatment of adult clients with eating disorders. The EDWG has since broadened its focus and membership. It has also diversified its mandate to address a variety of emerging issues.

The EDWG now has a provincial focus and participation from a variety of stakeholders. This includes a number of programs directly involved in service provision to clients suffering from eating disorders within the Eastern Health system, as well as external stakeholders such as the Body Image Network, Memorial University Counselling Centre and the Centre for Nursing Studies.

Furthermore, the EDWG has worked hard to build strong links with community groups interested in eating disorders. The team also seeks critical input from individuals and families who are struggling with this illness.

Team Achievements
The team’s primary goal is to develop and support a seamless continuum of informed and appropriate care to individuals and families affected by an eating disorder. The EDWG has completed an impressive array of projects designed to improve quality of care. These projects could not have been undertaken without the collaboration, expertise and insights of an interprofessional team. Highlights include:

- Extensive literature reviews on related topics.

Future Plans

Service Planning
The EDWG and its partners have been celebrating the provincial government’s recent decision to fund the development of a new provincial eating disorder program. The Interprofessional Intensive Outpatient Treatment Program for Eating Disorders will be an intensive day treatment program and will be designed as a model interprofessional practice learning setting. Students will learn not only medical skills related to treating this illness but also skills in working as part of an interprofessional team.

Community Capacity Building
Another key issue is the need for community capacity building in terms of identification, intervention, early treatment and follow-up for those afflicted by eating disorders. There is an identified need for continuing education and support for health professionals in both urban and rural areas across the province. In recognition of this problem, the EDWG team applied for and received an Eastern Health Lighthouse Award for Innovation to fund the development and implementation of community capacity building programs from an interprofessional perspective.
Newfoundland & Labrador Health Sciences Students’ Association Update

Representatives of the Newfoundland chapter attended the annual conference of the National Health Sciences Students’ Association held at the University of Saskatchewan in January. It was a great way to begin the year. Members returned re-energized and brimming with innovative ideas to improve our local chapter. Following the conference, the committee held a “jam session” to discuss ideas and plan our agenda. It was decided that getting more students involved in volunteer activities would be the foundation for many of our initiatives for the upcoming year. It is also a beneficial way for students to work together as a team.

Memorial students had the opportunity to participate again this year in the Interprofessional Institute in Palliative Care which took place during May in Hamilton, Ontario. This student-centred national institute is the first of its kind in Canada. The institute follows a format of interprofessional problem based learning with a focus on integration of core concepts of palliative care competencies. Delegate Amanda Sellers, a second year nursing student, learned important skills in grief counselling while collaborating with other students and health professionals.

During the summer months, NLHSSA participated in a HIV/AIDS initiative called Little Travellers. Little Travellers are tiny beaded dolls made by women at the Hillcrest AIDS Centre in South Africa. We sold over 100 dolls in an effort to raise awareness about AIDS and the importance of collaborative treatment for this disease.

NLHSSA is currently recruiting junior representatives to replace students who have graduated from their professional programs. We are looking for enthusiastic members whose talents and ideas will help build on our past achievements.

We are excited about orientation presentations coming up, raising awareness about the association and getting involved in more volunteer ventures, such as the CIBC Run for the Cure and Street Reach, that will provide countless opportunities for the health science faculties to work together because…

Together – We’re Better!

NLHSSA Committee Members:

- Pharmacy: Erin Schwenger (other representative TBA)
- Social Work: Crystalynn Jackson and Melissa Tremblett
- Nursing: Melissa George and Lana Mercer
- Medicine: Ryan Snelgrove and Tina Pittman
Interprofessional Coffee Break Orientation Sessions

Glenda Cunning, MN

The Labrador-Grenfell Regional Health Authority region covers a large geographic area which can make scheduling orientation sessions a challenge. To accommodate busy schedules and to reach as many people as possible, the Centre for Collaborative Health Professional Education sponsored Interprofessional Coffee Break Orientation sessions at the Captain William Jackman Memorial Hospital in Labrador City, the Labrador Health Centre in Goose Bay, and the Charles S. Curtis Memorial Hospital in St. Anthony. This arrangement worked well and attracted a good turnout. Working collaboratively is well established in these areas, and participants shared many examples of their work with other health disciplines as well as with other community partners. The concept of interprofessional education and the preceptor’s role as champion of collaborative practice was well received. Many thanks to staff representatives Emma Stirling, Paulette Bungay, and Muriel Budgell for their work arranging the visits.

Interprofessional Coffee Break Orientation Sessions

Tiffany Hawco (Social Worker), Diane Alyward (RN, Regional Director of PHC), Rosarii Patey (RN, Regional Director of LTC Services), Nadine Calloway (Social Worker), Tammy Burden (RN), Dr. Kweku Dankwa (Associate VP Medical Services/Pathologist), Krista Colbourne (Nursing Student), Cathy Simms (Team Leader Maternal Child Health Nurse), Glenda Cunning (IECPCP Coordinator), Muriel Budgell (Employee Development Coordinator).

Faculty Development

Anne Kearney, PhD

The mandate of the new Faculty Development Leadership Team is to enhance the knowledge, attitudes and skills of faculty in order to implement interprofessional education curricula at Memorial University.

Created in the spring of 2007, the leadership team is made up of representatives from the Counseling Centre, the Faculty of Medicine and the Schools of Pharmacy, Social Work and Nursing (three collaborative sites), as well as staff from the Centre for Collaborative Health Professional Education (CCHPE).

A survey was created by the committee to assess faculty preferences and needs in relation to implementing interprofessional curricula. This survey was administered over the summer to all faculty who have taught within the IECPCP project at Memorial University, administrative leads for undergraduate education in each academic unit, and faculty who have committee responsibility related to curriculum development. Qualitative and quantitative data will soon be analysed by CCHPE research staff. The Leadership Team will be planning and implementing faculty development activities over the next academic year.
Project Evaluation Update

Dennis Sharpe, PhD and Kate Flynn, MASP

The winter and spring semesters have once again been very busy for members of the project’s Evaluation/Research Team.

Students who participated in four interprofessional education modules/blocks during the winter semester were surveyed. Reports have been distributed to members of the curriculum development teams.

Participants in the Rural Mental Health Interprofessional Training Program completed pre and post training surveys. In addition, focus groups were conducted with Cycle One participants and facilitators in March. Focus groups for Cycle Two participants and facilitators are planned for late fall.

Five teams completed The Interprofessional Collaboration Workshop. The groups have each completed pre and post training surveys which were used to produce a summary report.

Useful Internet Links about Interprofessional Education

IECPCP project page on the CCHPE website
http://www.med.mun.ca/cchpe/pages/activities/iecpcp.htm

IECPCP Health Canada site
http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/hcs-sss/hhr-rhs/strateg/interprof/index_e.html

IECPCP brochure (pdf)

IECPCP curriculum framework handout

IECPCP backgrounder handout

Health Canada video
http://www.healthcouncilcanada.ca/splash.htm

Links for interprofessional health education
http://www.med.mun.ca/cchpe/pages/resources/IPE.htm

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