

Toronto Dementia Network

Minutes of the Sixth Meeting of the Steering Committee held on September 9, 2003 at the Toronto District Health Council

Present

Rory Fisher (Co-chair)	Regional Geriatric Program
Françoise Hébert (Co-chair)	Alzheimer Society of Toronto
David Globerman	Ontario Seniors Secretariat
Carole Cohen	Dementia LINC, Sunnybrook and Women's
Amanda Falotico	Providence Centre (OCSA)
Pam Goldsilver	Comprehensive Rehabilitation and Mental Health Services
Eric Hong	Whitby Mental Health Centre
Vija Mallia	Castleview Wychwood Home for the Aged (OANHSS)
Rhona Phillips	Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care
Rena Postoff	West Park Health Care Centre
Joy Richards	Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care
David Ryan	Psychogeriatric Resource Consultant Program
Fern Teplitsky	Toronto District Health Council
Angela Mendes	Database Consultant, Toronto Dementia Network

Regrets

Terry Collins	Ontario Long Term Care Association
Marta Krywonis	Etobicoke-York CCAC
Marilyn Pearson	Caregiver

1. Welcome and Introductions – *Dr. Rory Fisher*

Dr. Fisher introduced new members **Joy Richards** of Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care and **David Globerman** for the Ontario Seniors Secretariat, replacing **Angie Szuch/Rod Browning**.

2. Approval of the Agenda – *Dr. Rory Fisher*

The agenda was approved.

3. Approval of Minutes of May 12, 28, 2003 – *Dr. Rory Fisher*

The minutes were approved as distributed.

4. Budget Update – *Françoise Hébert*

The budget was revised on Sept. 9, 2003. As of today we have spent \$31,820 of the original \$55,000. The projected expenses are estimates only. The amount remaining for the data base coordinator may change if other expenses increase.

Changes in the Budget

- . The Committee approved a \$700 increase for the Community Consultation Project budget
- . The Committee approved a proposed increase to Angela Mendes' salary..

5. Dementia Network Advisory Council – *Françoise Hébert*

A Provincial Forum for Dementia Networks is planned for October 20, 2003. It will be the chance to review of current network activities, information exchange mechanisms among networks and sustainability issues as priority agenda items for the Forum. Each of the 36 network can have 2 delegates. Toronto, because of its large size, can have 5 delegates, in addition to Françoise, who is on the provincial committee. Rory Fisher, Carole Cohen, Fern Teplitsky, Amanda Falotico, David Ryan volunteered to attend. David Globberman stated that a final report would come from the Forum, which will be distributed to senior ministry officials.

6. Database Demonstration and Project Update – *Fern Teplitsky*

After much work on definitions and classification taxonomies, the new website (www.dementiatoronto.org) was launched on August 11, 2003. Steering committee members were very impressed with the site and thanked Angela Mendes for her hard work. Angela presented a one-page summary of community responses to the website so far. She also described the process used to test the usefulness and friendliness of the site by volunteers at the Alzheimer society. David Ryan suggested she document this testing.

Angela asked organizations represented on the Steering Committee to create links on their own WebPages to the Dementia Network site. All the Steering Committee members endorsed this idea. Dr. Fisher asked Steering Committee members to encourage their organizations to do so and to notify Angela when they had.

Discussion ensued about a number of issues relating to the quality of the site:

- the purpose of the site is to be a portal for information and an aid to accessing services;
- descriptions should be service/program specific and focused on dementia i.e. not just organizational descriptions;
- several large organizations faced difficulty in describing themselves, not being clear how to differentiate themselves from the Regional Geriatric Program at their site
- some physicians concerned that they are not part of the site
- need to link with other sites that provide basic information on dementia in order to help caregivers using the site
- need basic information on the CCACs and their eligibility criteria
- need basic information on the RGP

Retirement Homes will be covered through their association (ORCA) at the present time but the question of individual presence on the site may be revisited in the future

Follow ups

- Angela to write up description of process used to test the website;
- Amanda to provide copy of recent CCAC brochure to Françoise;
- David Ryan to provide basic information on the RGP to Françoise;
- Website Subcommittee to meet to discuss issues raised by members and report back