

Daily Briefing Note April 14, 2020

Attendees: Michelle Brooks; Ann Bilodeau; Brad Saunders; Bryan Keshen; Carolyn Morrison; Chris Beesley; David Cohen; David Ferguson; Eugene Versteeg; Janet Noel-Annable; Lorrie Heffernan; Lisa Holmes; Geoff McMullen; Jo-Anne Demick; Don Walker; Jonathan Bradshaw; Peter Sproul; Ann-Marie Binetti; Christine Dubyk

Opening remarks:

1) Updates from MCCSS and progress reports on take-aways:

- Stats on COVID-19 – **current as of Noon today, April 14th**

Region	Confirmed Resident cases	Confirmed Staff Cases
Central Region	40	9
Toronto Region	4	4
West Region	2	1
East Region	4	3
North Region	0	0
Total:	50	17

2) Updates on take-aways from the Committee Members:

- Support Staff in the Hospital – **Chris B./ Brad S.**



Hospital supports
PN agenda item_ .m:

- ✓ Chris B. shared that consistent directive across the province around appropriate supports for people in the DS Sector is required. Hearing that hospitals want support staff to be allowed to accompany individuals. William Osler is coming out with the guidelines and policies to allow us to

share with MCCSS and EOC and in order to expedite. Chris will share with Eugene. Eugene will share with David Remington and so he is aware of this for tomorrow's EOC call.

- EOC & Guidance: Group Home & Co-Living Settings – **Eugene**
 - ✓ Raised 'priority testing' at EOC the other day and received a call to provide further input into the 'guidance document'. Another call was had this morning and to discuss suggestions on what could be provided into the Guidance document for Group Home & Co-Living Settings. **Eugene welcomes any other suggestions that people may have and to include for feedback to EOC.**
 - ✓ Some highlights of the document:
 - In the 'General Advice' section: helping them, helping us and understanding how to respond to our settings. Will try to nuance some of this into these documents.
 - Want to outright note that 'no visitors' allowed in our homes at this time.
 - More information about 'screening and physical barriers', including employee self-screening.
 - Add information on 'when there is an outbreak' and access to hospitalization; when it is appropriate for DSWs to assist persons in hospital. Monitoring of health of a resident and hospitalization.
 - Increased language for testing for both the people who live in the home and work in the home
 - PPE Usage – prevention and using masks by way of prevention. Sewn and commercial masks become very important at this time. Consider one mask per shift as the use is to ensure no one becomes infected by the person wearing the mask.
 - Greater clarity around 'work/self isolation'. Still have cross-sector work in some environments.
 - Looking to send something to the EOC in the next day or two.
 - ✓ Bryan: protocol for conservation and reuse of PPE
 - ✓ Brad: wondering in terms of visitors, if there is something around provisions for 'essential' visitors and what this would look like. Concern is that there will be a small group of people that will become vocal the longer this goes on. There is a provision around this for LTC and wanting to understand. Members have a concern with having anyone aside from support staff and individuals entering homes/group homes.
 - ✓ Jo-Anne – deep cleaning and infection control experts to clean group homes. Not sure if this should be a one-off for agencies and/or if this should be something that all DS agencies do and how often.
- Staffing Before & During Outbreak
 - PPE** – Lisa H: agencies do not have enough masks to last longer than a week and are being informed by Health care that 'cloth' masks are not to be utilized. In the health experience, people are more apt to touch their faces, not washing properly, etc.

- ✓ Janet N-A: being told differently and moving ahead with using cloth masks.
- ✓ Bryan: incumbent for us to go back to ask if there will be 'sufficient' PPE for our sector. If we each try to solve this, we are going to be battling for PPE. We were informed that we were going to be receiving PPE and would like to push this upward.
- ✓ Michelle: Durham has a process to have weekly PPE provided and this may be an avenue for other organizations to investigate via their Regional/Municipal offices
- ✓ Ann-B – using reusable masks for a week and has de-stressed staff significantly.
- ✓ Eugene – has been speaking with David Remington as the co-representative at the EOC table on recent discussions around PPE. Eugene will ask for further updates regarding any progress with PPE's and/or strategies suggested.
- ✓ ***Michelle will do a 'roll up' of the conversation today and share highlights with MCCSS for feedback.***

Self Isolation at home; at work

- ✓ How are organizations handling staff working at more than one location, and if that location has an outbreak?
- ✓ Jo-Anne – locked down staff to ensure no cross overs between locations and programs. Employees are to work at only one group home and provide whatever hours they want. Some staff work for other employers and they were required to make a commitment. Staff not able to go into any public places such as: Banks; Groceries, etc. ALL is delivered and done online. Require all staff to wear masks and using home made at this time.
- ✓ Michelle: provided staff with a 'declaration' to confirm if they are working at more than one location. Having the conversation to ask p/t employees to work only one employer.
- ✓ Lisa: looked at other alternative measures as staff have had to go into isolation. Health has given an algorithm on how to get staff back into work after isolation and that are low risk, etc. Also asking staff via a 'screening' process and questions around where they have worked. ***Lisa will share the algorithm.***
- ✓ Dave F. – interested to know from Union perspective if there is any backlash to getting cooperation at the local tables. Dave has spoke with a couple of organizations and they are wondering if at the provincial level if we are pushing for enhanced wages, temp increases, etc.
- ✓ Lorrie H. – SEIU has written all certified agencies informing that they will be putting them on notice for lack of PPE's, etc. and should an employee die due to Covid. ***Michelle will follow-up with Rupert on this.***

Housing for Staff

- ✓ Bryan: Utilizing hotels until someone is tested 'covid positive', however not sure where they go once confirmed positive as they do not want to go home.
- Post Crisis Fallout – (Deferred from April 8th) **Dave F.**
 - ✓ Dave F: - There are 900 volunteer therapists focussed on working with DS around EAP and extending their services to us. **Dave will share more on this via a document**
 - ✓ Dave: talked with Ministry a couple weeks ago pertaining to funding for I.T. and data plans. Similarly, families are being told to use flexibility with Passport funds. If there is flexibility can we hear this from Ministry and get this message out.
 - ✓ Brad confirmed that three members went away to work on this and an email was shared with Christine K. on the weekend for clarification and feedback. **Brad will share with Dave F. Michelle will do the 'ask out' to MCCSS.**
- Frontline Experiences – **All**
 - ✓ Janet – 2 tested positive; medically complex and fragile. First step was to see if the individual could be hospitalized. The hospital was receptive, however family said they have a DNR order in place and want her to remain at the home. At this point, employees are willing to support her, however the care is exceeding the support she requires. Will continue to journey this, however difficult. There is no 'palliative' team.
 - ✓ Bryan – supporting someone who is palliative and showing symptoms and will treat them with the assumption that it is 'COVID'. Bryan's organization does do palliative with full PPE.
 - ✓ Bryan – Have we heard anything about KPMG? **Michelle said only what was on the call last week and will circle back on this.**
 - ✓ Ann B – KPMG Workforce group will meet this week.
- SSAH and Messaging to Families – **Response from Laura S., MCCSS**
 - The letters should be released over the course of the next few weeks; when they have been sent we will inform PN. In the meantime, you may continue to use the messaging that Rupert provided: those with prior year SSAH allotments will have them continued in 2020-21

3) Significant Decisions: *Based on Recommendations from Take-Aways & Today's Conversations*

- It was agreed that Chris B. will continue to share weekly summaries of the PN Briefing Calls

Next Call: Thursday April 16th, 2020 @ 2:00PM