

Provincial Network Daily Briefing Note
January 6th, 2021

Welcome – Michelle B., PN Chair

- Addition to Agenda: Terms of Reference (discuss under ‘Other’)
- ‘Draft’ Briefing Note of December 16th approved and ‘final’ will be circulated to members by Christine

Updates on take-aways from the Committee Members

- EOC – Eugene
 - At the EOC, conversations have been around the vaccine and the planning. There is a need for assistance to administer the vaccines and the province is concerned they are starting to fall behind. There is plenty of vaccine to go around and efforts to ramp this up are taking place.
 - Discussion on whether the guidance documents apply to our sector and the people that work in Direct Support. Requesting for congregate care to be included and to ensure we do not keep having separate documents for Health and DS. Eugene has reached out to work with EOC on this and connected with Dean’s team. Some of the people within the Vaccine Preparedness Group may also be able to assist.
 - Some of the discussion with the broader group (COVID-19 Vaccine Working Group) was whether to jump the queue and forward the documents already available.
 - Bryan asked, given the rise in numbers were there any other discussions going on at EOC and that we will need to be operational in the parallel world and how this changes procedures, directions, etc. Eugene said each week is different, however 5-10 minutes is spent on sharing numbers and document updates. Eugene also raised Dave F.’s concerns pertaining to Ottawa/Quebec cross border employees and no answer received as yet.
- DS Sector Vaccine Preparedness ‘Ad-Hoc’ Committee – Bryan / Lorrie
 - Lorrie shared that there are 4 key themes this group is focussing on: **Education, Human Resources, Distribution and Prioritization**
 - ✓ EDUCATION: How to educate the sector on the importance of the COVID-19 vaccine
 - ✓ PRIORITIZATION and DISTRIBUTION: How key players are prioritized and identified. Public Health; Community focus around Politicians; MPP’s and Ministry. Talked about what is needed for prioritization and how our congregate care homes are not the same as LTC in comparison to size, the number of rural areas; importance of both supported people and staff receiving the vaccine, etc.
 - ✓ As part of the January 14th Webinar, Dr. Bogoch has reached out to Chris B. to be part of the panel. Yona will also be providing data and may be able to connect with SOR via the Ministry for comparisons of numbers for deaths, hospitalizations, etc.

- ✓ Talked about the DS population and how/why they age at a different rate.
 - ✓ Discussed how things need to be done quickly and aiming to have information for the January 14th webinar.
- Eugene shared that a 'Save the Date' will be circulated today and the webinar set up between Bryan and his Team, with the assistance of James Janeiro. An update on the 4 areas of work and anticipated outcomes will be on the agenda.
 - Dave F. via the OASIS LR Committee has arranged for Chuck Hofley (Hicks Morley) to speak pertaining to the 'legal opinion' around vaccines and will be sharing the 'legal opinion' broadly and will include in the outgoing communication that in collaboration with the SPPI group & the Provincial Network, a webinar is being prepared for Jan 14th, and will include educational information on the vaccines.
 - Dave shared that SEIU has been working with LTC and other Health Care organizations utilizing a survey and to try and provide education and awareness to encourage people to take the vaccinations. Dave is thinking this idea should go forward and to ask CUPE and OPSEU what they are doing along these lines to educate staff and expect that the unions will be responsive to this approach.
 - Further to the 'Legal Opinion', Dave feels this is very well done. Geoff McMullen supports this going to the OASIS Membership today. Dave will share with Michelle and Christine for distribution to the Network and for sharing broadly.
 - Jo-Anne asked if there has been any discussion about people living in congregate care settings and families that will not provide consent for vaccination. Dave said discussions are taking place, however this is not part of the request on the legal opinion as this is part of the employee/employer communication. Agree this is important, however feel that it will also be complicated and is something that will come forward. Hoping that within the working groups this could be front and centre for some suggestions and in terms of educating both employees and families.
 - Dean said in terms of education, the 'Vaccine Preparedness' subgroup is working on putting together a vaccine document that target POA's, families and supported individuals. This will be broken down into categories such as: What; Why; After
 - ✓ There will be social stories with references and resources for people to access. Looking at 'consents' with the focus on the people we support. There are a lot of questions around this. The MOH consent forms are geared specifically to when a person reports to a particular location for the vaccination.
 - ✓ Dean will circulate questions to the larger group and also post via RXC to direct traffic for people to access. The end result is to inform all the stakeholder groups.
 - ✓ Dean referenced a video that NADSP did and how it stresses the importance of vaccinating; there are also some written materials from Yona.
 - Samples are being provided to Rupert on distribution and how this may look different. A survey is to be sent out that will help with understanding the relationship with Public Health through the Regional Table. Bryan said the key will be that various forms of distribution will be required with local leadership. Looking for endorsement from Provincial Network to support a letter to be shared today/tomorrow with notification of the January 14th event with a request to complete the survey ASAP on an agency-by-agency basis. Will also request that this be shared by everyone's network.
 - Don shared that an E.D. in Brockville has been contacted to schedule his agency for the vaccine. Clearly agencies are being contacted, however Bryan said positionally, we are

not geared to have this done until end of phase 1 or 2. It is currently all over the place in the Province and also depends on your connection with Public Health.

- Eugene said there are agencies reaching out directly to Public Health and/or Public Health contacting agencies and there is a need to try and make this less complicated.
- Michelle said correspondence is to come out from the Ministry around prioritization and how they are looking at identifying hot spots however not sure if this will address the one-offs. She asked if it makes sense that the video that Dean referenced be pushed out sooner than later to assist with decisions around vaccinations. Dean said unfortunately it is American and perhaps there is something similar in Canada we could share. Eugene said Sunlife has a video, however this is an hour-long and he is currently trying to pull relevant information from the video to shorten and then post to RXC. The feel is that people are saying 'No' to the vaccine as they just don't know enough about it yet. Eugene and Ann-Marie are working to set up RXC to have a prominent place for this information to reside.
- Michelle suggested that given the fact that we are hearing an announcement this weekend, maybe we should have a communique go out Friday of this week to avoid an overload of questions. This will come from the sub-committees of the PN.

PN members are in support of having something circulated per Bryan's recommendation above. Dean will forward a draft to Michelle and Christine.

Michelle thanked the group for all their work, leadership and continued efforts. Lorrie said there are a lot of people and work being done behind the scenes. Michelle suggested a public recognition be done from Eugene at the January 14th webinar.

- DS HR Forum – Ann-Marie B.
 - Opened registration today for the DS HR Forum and requests that all please share with their Networks - March 2nd
 - Finalizing the agenda with sessions on legal topics re: COVID – 19
 - With the registration email a 'call for awards/nominations' was included.
 - Sponsorship package was put together and will share with PN members. Feel free to share and if you have any ideas for sponsors let Ann-Marie know.
 - Ann B. checked the budget in terms of the HR Forum and there is a bit of money that MCCSS wanted HR to use around financial literacy. Will ask the Ministry if they will assist in costs around this.
- Labour Challenges – Dave F. – OASIS Labour Relations
 - Union Discussions
 - ✓ Dave F. shared that unions were asked to have an initial discussion pertaining to Central Bargaining and this will be on next week's agenda. 80% of unionized agencies will be at the table within the next couple of months.
 - ✓ Dave F. shared that Gary Dowe has been invited to join the next call with the Unions to start conversations. This will take place next Friday.
- Bathing Protocols (Ad-Hoc Group)
 - Michelle said she has had a discussion with Kevin Lockwood regarding the 'bathing protocols' and he shared that he wanted to keep the consultation at a leadership level

at this time and not via a small ad-hoc working group. The most significant concern was the need for MCCSS to be able to go back with some commendations to the Auditor General.

- Members agree that the concern here is more behavioural as opposed to policy. How do we proceed forward with next steps?
- Members are in agreement that we are unsure of what MCCSS is looking for and that we are uncomfortable pulling this issue away from the QAM Reference Group and having the Ministry come to PN for advice as a “one off” and/or corrective vs. collaborative improvements. Michelle suggested that she and Janet take this offline to have further discussion and look at the summary of conversations that have been had with Kevin. Dean could also be a part of this conversation.
- ***Michelle will compose something on the role of the PN and pass it over to Dean and Janet with a recommendation to have a call with Kevin.***

➤ QAM PN Representatives – Michelle

- To Date, interest from PN representatives to sit at the QAM Reference Group are: Janet N-A; Michelle B; Jo-Anne D.; Dave F. (checking with Cheryl L.)

SPPI-Pandemic Planning Framework– Don W.

- The checklist is completed. Two key people are currently on leave from this Committee and a re-group is being done on Thursday to discuss further. Will refocus and assign more people after this meeting.

Other

➤ ConnectAbility & RealXChange Update – Ann-Marie

- Highlighting vaccines and sharing of information will be posted to RXC and ConnectABILITY
- Posted resources around care of facemasks and videos created around donning/doffing, cleaning and reducing stress
- Michelle shared an upcoming event– Kate Collins and said this may be good to post
- HCARDD/ Yona provided some materials around COVID ‘plain language’
- Ann-Marie will share a communique on the above and to inform the sector

➤ Emerging Issues – All

Terms of Reference - Michelle

- Michelle informed members that the ***Terms of Reference*** will be reviewed at the full day PN meeting in January. There have been a number of inquiries around PN and membership and we can discuss the addition of representation from Passports, etc. Christine will share the terms of reference with the circulation of today’s briefing note. Please review and forward any immediate items that need to be addressed to Christine and Michelle prior to January 28th. Would like to avoid wordsmithing at the full day meeting. Should there be recommendations for many updates, we will consider looking at a smaller group to review.

- Brad suggested this may be an opportunity to look at the sector as a whole and the bodies beneath PN. This was discussed with Counsel via OASIS around shrinking the number of organizations that represent the Province. At the time this was a lot of , however maybe this is the time to revisit. We have organized ourselves in a very decentralized way and this can be confusing for Government and based on how ‘other’ sectors have organized themselves.
- Keep this on our radar and potentially look at a 6-8 month timeline. Members are in agreement with this suggestion.

Add this items to the agenda for Full Day meeting in January.

Items Deferred for the Full Day Meeting of January 28th, 2021

- Co-Creation of Community of Practice – Jo-Ann/Chris B. - **DEFER** to full day
 - ✓ How to best support people during the day
- People with Developmental Disabilities and LTC – Jo-Anne -**DEFER** to full day
- Auditor General Report-All - **DEFER** to full day
 - ✓ Discussion with Rupert re: 12 recommendations and 32 Action Items

Adjournment: 3:15PM

Next Meetings:

- **Next PN Briefing Calls:** January 13th, 2021 2PM
January 20th, 2021 2PM
- **Next PN Regular Meeting:** January 28th, 2021 10AM