

Provincial Network Daily Briefing Note

May 5th, 2021

2:00PM – 3:00PM via BlueJeans

Welcome – Michelle Brooks, Chair

- 'Draft' Agenda for May 5th, 2021 – approved as presented
- 'Draft' Minutes of April 22nd – To be shared soon

Updates on take-aways from the Committee Members

EOC – Eugene

- No Updates to share at this time

DS Rapid Antigen Testing -Lisa/Ann

- Ann B. pulled together some organizations that were well underway with the rapid testing and now pulling together policies and procedures around the different models. This will be shared with Ann-Marie and for posting to the RXC.
- Ann B. is unsure what the PN group is wanting on this at this time and Michelle verified that this is mainly around the hesitancy and lack of uptake in DS; the management of who is and is not vaccinated; visitors coming in and for educating people. We want people to be eager to be tested, as opposed to making it feel like they are having to be tested.
- Bryan said the group has 2 functions: one is for feedback from this group to the Ministry on issues; opportunities and/or inequities on the approach. There may be a lot of different things happening based on the diversity of this. There is probably some inconsistencies and inequity in people getting vaccinated. Pulling together best practices to simplify this may be something that this group could do.
- Ann confirmed that she cannot lead this, however asked Eugene if Susan would be willing to do so? May be able to pick up on what Safe Haven has at this point and Ann will try to pull everyone together again to see who could take this on.
- Michelle said organizations are wanting to do this internally, however there needs to be more investment at this level. If we are rising up and accepting this, this could be a 'very significant' thing going forward and without the resources. There is potential that this may get mandated and without investment to sustain. Ann said her local chamber is now providing free tastings Ann will go back to the group and see where it can go from here.
- Lisa will continue to be the link back to the PN table should someone from Safe Haven be willing to take this on. A lot of agencies are still trying to figure out what works best and in its infancy stage.
- Eugene shared a note from MCCSS re: Central West and that they had started a Community of Practice as well. This seems to be a matter of bringing these various groups together.
- Michelle said perhaps generating scenarios to help communicate at this point could be a possible starting point. Maybe in way of a webinar to get it started. Jo-Anne is happy to continue to be on this group and it seems to be rapidly evolving around how this will revolve to self-administered testing, etc.

- Michelle will forward the Hicks Morley template that was also vetted via Pooran on adding in the vaccination, partnering and aligning rapid antigen testing and declaration forms. These will be shared with the 'minutes'.

DS Sector Vaccine Preparedness 'Ad-Hoc' Committee – *Bryan / Lorrie*

- Met today re:
 - ✓ Prioritization and 1st dose
 - ✓ Hot spots and advocating for the 2nd dose for DS
 - ✓ The fact that people have been in their homes for a long time
 - ✓ One-employer issue
 - ✓ Most areas are seeing progress and do not believe there are any areas that are having issues. If anyone is aware of this let Lorrie/Bryan know.
 - ✓ Rapid Testing and some from the Vaccine group are interested in going forward with the Rapid Antigen Testing group.
 - ✓ Conversations had around vaccines and policies. Does OASIS LR have any work that falls into this area? Dave F. will speak to this re: CUPE.
- Bryan shared that there has been a significant increase in availability of vaccines and an expanded list of eligible people. While this is a great opportunity to step forward and get vaccinated it may also have the unintended consequence of pushing out those who are 'high risk'. If those with high risk do not have times and clinics dedicated to them the system may end up limiting their access, we need to continue to speak up and identify these inequities. The 2nd dose conversation focussed on the fact that absent any other data, the sector is not going to see movement on early access to 2nd doses. It will be important to profile any evidence and data that 2nd dose early delivery and its efficacy.
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- Talked about data and awaiting feedback on this from the Ministry on numbers of vaccinations and success rates. Bryan will share materials from himself and what Yona presented.
- Lorrie shared that Rupert and others had discussions around the one-employer rule. He commented a number of times that there is a model from the LTC sector and that DS may see something similar. This is a good reason to push the 2nd dose for our sector and to allow working for more than one sector. Eugene is interested in adjusting our guidelines around the 2nd vaccination so we can clearly welcome back those employees that are working in LTC settings. The guidelines allow for this now however clarity in our sector will assist us.
- Dave F. said that Ottawa's challenges is around semi-independent living. Unsure how the 2nd vaccine will play into this. This stems mostly from the lack of vaccines.
- Jo-Anne shared that her health unit announced that people with DD was opened up last week and ages 16 and over were approved for Pfizer and today the ages of 12-15 was approved.

PN-HR Committee – *Eugene*

OADD; PN-HR and OASIS Collaborative Conversations

- Kim Rodrigues is moving on and will be replaced on the PN committee. This is In process.

MCCSS Investment re: Mental Health

- The PowerPoint and work plan were circulated and as well as the draft survey questions. Branding is being worked on and today, looking for endorsement or approval of the work plan.

- Webinars and community of practice is being looked at and will send registration information on the 'launch'. This will also be recorded. Important to keep the momentum so wanting to have the audience for engagement.
- Next steps will be to look at getting things going in June for creation of Wellness Committees and resources to get off the ground. Starting the ECHO sections to for the practical learning in their communities.
- Michelle shared that there will be a call for expression of interest with support of up to 100 agencies. Building the community of practice will be based on these 100 agencies. Communication for launch will go out shortly.
- Michelle asked to what extent this connects to the Unions beyond just the organizations and to get this out. Eugene said this may be a very good conversation and may work well with supporting their fellow members.
- Looking for endorsement to proceed as discussed above: ***Agreed with no opposition***

MCCSS Investment HR Initiative - Ann B.

- Met a week ago to flush out the Terms of Reference and wanting to move forward on what a committee would look like.
 - Ann-Marie shared next steps will be around governance and make up of a reference group and steering committee. The reference group would include end users. Looking at recruitment in terms of putting out an info session/launch and a call for expressions of interest. Circling back to meet with the Ministry on Monday around the draft ToR and will bring back for review and input to this committee.
- HR Committee Highlights: Ann-Marie shared that there is a newer Northern member who is keen on getting involved, so happy to have her involved and volunteering for committees.
- Michelle shared that around the Mental Health, Rob Hickey spoke of using previous data should there be long term investments available. Rob compared the project to *'you took my garage band and turned it into a symphony'*

Labour Challenges – Dave F. – OASIS Labour Relations

- The NLTSD survey was shared re: WSIB. There was feedback that the ministry feels this may be a recruitment tool for students coming out of school.
- Identifying when a family demands all people are vaccinated and starting early conversations. CUPE speculated that there will be legislation demanding vaccinations, however not sure where this came from.
- Discussions were had on changes in day programs and support. CUPE were trying to clarify that they are not opposed to changes, however want information in advance. Looking at this internally with OASIS.
- In terms of Labour Relations, Dave F. wants to acknowledge CL Windsor Essex and the write up re: impact of free tuition for DSW positions and how this was picked up in the legislature yesterday. There was good advocacy around this.
- Ann B. is finding out more around the bonuses that and how we may be able to implement this around this. Does anyone else want to look into investigating this? Also hearing that in the LTC's there is a bonus for hire. Ann has a couple of strategies in place. Dave F. would be interested in pursuing the discussions further with Ann B.
- Ann B. would also be interested in how can we tap into the DSW foreign students.

- Dave F. reminded all of the May 27th webinar re: WSIB. MPP Fraser has agreed to be on this webinar. The webinar will cover things such as the change in framework and working with an external consultant on how to manage costs, etc. This information will be coming out soon and there are several other provincial groups interested in this.

Compensation Survey for Sector – *Dave/Janet*

- Janet shared that the survey closes on Friday and please ensure your teams and networks complete.

QAM Reference Group

- Bathing Protocols – Dean and Jo-Anne shared that a couple of meetings have taken place and discussed items around public positing of non-compliances and how they will no longer occur; Board roles and funding penalties for repeat non-compliance. The shift will be around education and quality of services and keeping people safe. Unsure if we are still going to reach out to those agencies that were involved and/or share the survey? Michelle asked for survey to be re-shared with her.
- Janet said it is a tough conversation to address bathing protocols and the concept of managing risk and finding this difficult to make headway. Dealing with this one thing in the context of many others is difficult. We understand the role the ministry has to play and to go back to the Auditor General, however the response should be how we provide supports to people in general.

Other

ConnectAbility & Real Xchange Updates – Ann-Marie

- The committee task at this point is to put out a communique to folks not connected to agencies re: online portal. Christine D. shared an email for PN to share with their networks around this today. This is going to go via the Passport agencies and DSO's in efforts to connect all.

LTC Report- Brad

- Brad shared the LTC documents for interest. This is a devastating report and heartbreaking. The report states that many of this was flagged earlier and warnings were not heeded. There will be responses from government on what they will do to address. There was a press release last week. Does not apply to our sector and this is a framework that we may want to look at.
- Dave F. said this was the consultations that the NDA's were in place for. Discussions were trying to portray that this was all abstract and now there is talk of implementation by January 2022. Dave's message around this was that DS would also like to be part of this. ***Put this on the next agenda for Dave/Brad and Ann to share further.***
- Brad gets a sense that there is potential for DS to influence. One comment was this could be a way to justify a wage enhancement.
 - Dave F. will send the slide deck from the 1st consultation and to frame discussions at the next meeting. Brad shared the link with Christine re: Press Release.

Emerging Issues – All

OASIS Conference – Brad said there are 450 people registered and look forward to seeing everyone online

Next Meetings:

- ***Next PN 'Regular Meeting':*** May 27th, 2021 @ 9:30am
- ***Next PN 'Briefing Call':*** June 2nd, 2021@ 2:00pm