

Provincial Network Daily Briefing Note

March 17th, 2021

2:00PM – 3:00PM via BlueJeans

Welcome – Michelle B., PN Chair

- 'Draft' Agenda for March 17th, 2021 – approved with the addition of:
 - Add under 'Other': Advocacy around the looming crisis due to LTC investments – Jo-Anne
- Approval of 'draft' minutes of February 25th, 2021 – Approved/final will be shared for circulation
- Approval of 'draft' briefing note of March 10th, 2021 - Approved and can be shared and posted

Updates on take-aways from the Committee Members

EOC – Eugene

- The 'third' consent form is now available.
- Ongoing conversations continue regarding vaccinations and the use of AstraZeneca in Canada
- Testing of variants continue
- Michelle asked if some guidance could be communicated based on the HCARRD statistics and whether AstraZeneca would be considered for those in their 50's? Eugene is not aware of this.
- David C. contacted a pharmacy re: AstraZeneca and was informed if you are 60-65 the vaccine can be administered however 65+ was not able to take AstraZeneca.

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

- A webinar will be hosted tomorrow, March 18th and will focus on experiences and relationships with public health and to understand where they are in their cycles and range of process that our sector will fall into. This will be about making sure PH units understand how DS can help them.
- Next sessions will have representatives from York region with a focus on how to implement a robust program for SIL, staff and residents. Looking ahead at next steps and will have Brian S. speak to how data can inform the process, etc.
- In discussions with MCCSS/Rupert, thoughts on sending a letter out pertaining to vaccinations, privacy, etc. to the general population, however the challenge is that this will not get anyone in the door sooner, and we are still trying to work through this for those that are high risk.
- Looking at some of the public health units that are a little more challenging around the use of rapid testing. More will be rolled out about this soon.
- Unsure if people are recognizing that senior population in congregate settings are priority and the necessity to have the entire home vaccinated at the same time.
- There are still some challenges with COVAX
- Starting to see people getting quite ill a few days out after being vaccinated.
- Michelle shared that it is important to ensure risk measures are not lapsed with employees being vaccinated and not necessarily supported people. With change of experience in the North some of the provincial organizations and planning tables need to make sure they are

aware of how to prepare, and staff are up to speed on the things we have experienced. It is important to reach out to those tables and support them.

- Bryan shared, in addition to having seniors in your homes, if you have indigenous population the entire house could become priority and this is based on the provincial framework.
- Dean shared that as part of the 'education' piece tomorrow, SPPI have slides around this.
- Ann-Marie will speak to how information is placed on RXC and working with folks at RXC to highlight some of the new items via a regular shareable that will be sent out.
- Ann B. shared that her agency is doing their own vaccinations next week and has an agreement with their local PH that allows them to book their own appointments, and this is in place. Ann's organization has been informed that they can vaccinate anyone supported, staff and one care giver. This will be the Moderna vaccine and is all taking place very quickly. A reach out will be done to all families. Have arrange mobility transit to pick people up, etc. Reach out to Ann if anyone would like further information on this.
- Lisa shared that their experience has been that only their supported individuals are able to be vaccinated. Currently setting the layout up and have not yet started the vaccinations. In order to administer at organizations, there are many 'security' features that must be in place. Lisa said her organization has had a very good response to rapid testing.
- Michelle asked with the many different examples from PH units, has there been consideration for PH units to join the webinar(s) to hear and to assist with influencing them. Lorrie said a couple PH people are presenting and the presentation could be shared for those not attending.
- Bryan said a reach out was done to each of the leads to invite their PH Units to the sessions to listen and learn how we can help them. Once recorded this can be pushed out and possibly try doing peer to peer engagement.

PN-HR Committee – Eugene

MCCSS Investment: Mental Health

- Ann-Marie informed members that a Mental Health Proposal has been submitted to MCCSS/Christine K.
- The proposal is for mental health resources for staff in the amount of \$300K in resources.
- Looking to develop micro grants for agencies with a small amount of funding allowing access to support via CAMH in way of mentorship; newsletters; things to help organizations create their own MH/Wellness teams. Looking at creating a 100 micro grants at \$2K each.
- There will also be resources for creating podcasts for mindfulness sessions. Building capacity within our organizations around mental health and ensuring staff has access to subject experts at CAMH.
- These groups can be used for OASIS conferences and go beyond the micro grants.
- Other Funding Initiatives
 - Eugene shared that there is an HR investment & collaborative with MCCSS for available funding re: Core Competencies & middle management and intended to be a sectoral initiative.
 - Michelle informed members that MCCSS has provided a small amount of funding for the 'French Translation'. Ann-Marie has connected with the SPPI' group to see which documents will be translated. There are quite a few French translation resources out there and these will be accessed as needed.

Labour Challenges – *Dave F. – OASIS Labour Relations*

Compensation Survey for Sector – *Dave/Janet*

- OASIS received feedback pertaining to the information around the \$25/hr that was requested for the ministry. This resulted in 50% of the sector workers being paid above \$25/hr and 50% paid below \$25/hr. That information is with the OASIS Compensation Committee and they will be meeting early next week to review this.
- As shared at the prior PN meeting, a ruling re: Pay Equity has come down

Other

ConnectAbility & Real Xchange Updates – Ann-Marie

- Ann-Marie has been asked to do a number of presentations for family groups for a demo of Conenctability. Should anyone be interested to have Ann-Marie provide this for their organizations, please let her know.

Wage Enhancement – Brad

- Expires on March 22nd and expecting a rollover, however no word to date.

Administrative Support 'Contract Fee' – Ann B.

- Ann B. shared that historically with the HR DS Strategy a 10% admin fee is allowable and is requesting that Provincial Network consider Michelle's administrative support function receiving a \$4K-\$5K fee toward this support. With the uptake in meetings over the past year and the various ad-hoc work there has been added administrative requirements. Ann is wanting to put this on the table and confirmed that the budget is available at any time should anyone wish to see it.

Motion to accept and approve a \$5K administrative support fee for Michelle's agency and to be monitored on an annual basis.

Moved by: Ann Bilodeau

Seconded by: Dave Ferguson

Long Term Care Investments - *Jo-Anne*

- Jo-Anne received an email from a CLO member agency in regard to the fast tracking of the PSW's into LTC and the assistance for the creation of full-time positions, there has been reports from one community that this may have affected the decrease in DSW enrollment, and they were wondering about the messaging to MPPs etc.
- Brad suggested that if this health/ltc approach to recruitment is working well in the PSW world this may be something we are able to reference to frame an opportunity and if there are stats/data showing the effectiveness, this would be beneficial. The OASIS Government Relations group can take this away however, if there is data to support this that would be helpful. Eugene/Ann said that the PN HR group could do some follow up with the colleges re the enrollment data.
- Lorrie feels that the concern forwarded to JoAnne is more around the competition and recruitment of staff.
- Ann feels the DSW apprenticeship and marketing piece that is part of the workforce on the ministry agenda and with the DS Reform coming down we need to look at what this means and how will our future workforce look.

- Dave shared that he has been meeting with MPP Roberts regularly and this was something they spoke about in terms of having the same tuition support for students that LTC is getting. If students, see free tuition vs. \$8K it is clear they will go the route of LTC. The simple ask would be a match of tuitions, regardless of the size of the essential worker's pool.
- Brad reiterated that we are not the same ministry and our ministry does not have the same level of funding. It is important to be cautious of how much we put out there in terms of being the same as far as 'essential workers. We should be clear what we are asking for and what the problem is that we are trying to solve. Rupert's last presentation at PN was that they/LTC were trying to catch up to what we have.
- Michelle said the ED orientation is next week and could Brad or Jonathan have a rogue response to address during the OASIS panel, and to be prepared.

Emerging Issues – All

- Terms of Reference – Review **DEFER**
 - ✓ Discussion re: Committee / Centralized Approach

Next Meetings:

- **Next PN 'Regular Meeting':** March 25th, 2021 @10:00am
- **Next PN 'Briefing Call':** March 31st, 2021@ 2:00pm

Meetings will be booked every other week beginning with the month of April. One meeting being a 'briefing' meeting and the other being a 'regular/full day' meeting. Members agree to meetings on Wednesday's and should we need to revisit the timing, we can regroup.