

Hamilton Niagara Haldimand Brant (HNHB) Hospice Palliative Care (HPC) Network Communique

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Welcome to the first issue of the Hamilton Niagara Haldimand Brant (HNHB) Hospice Palliative Care (HPC) Network Communique. The new Network was formally established in May 2007 and is an amalgamation of the previous Hamilton Hospice Palliative Care Network, the Niagara End-of-Life Care Network and the Grand River End-of-Life Care Network. The HNHB HPC Network, which is also inclusive of Burlington, now aligns to the HNHB LHIN boundaries.

Network Mandate and Vision

The HNHB Hospice Palliative Care Network is a network of stakeholders who work together collaboratively to plan, coordinate, implement and evaluate a system of quality hospice palliative care across the HNHB LHIN area. The vision of the Network is to achieve quality hospice palliative care for all individuals in the HNHB LHIN area.

Network Model

At a broad HNHB Network membership meeting held this past February, the joint Task Force presented the draft model and Terms of Reference for the new group, which consists of a Council, an Advisory Committee, and 3 Community Committees. (See Figure 1)

Interim Advisory Committee

An Interim Advisory Committee was initially elected by the previous Networks, prior to their disbanding, to assume the role of the HNHB HPC Network, and to hold the responsibility for building the balance of the model. It is anticipated that the permanent committees will be established within a year, and an open and transparent process will be developed to receive nominations and conduct elections.

Currently, the Interim Advisory Committee is comprised of 18 local HPC Champions selected from each of the 4 geographic areas, as well as 8 HNHB knowledge experts in the areas of Service Delivery, Education, Research Evaluation, Advocacy, French Language Services, Aboriginal Services, as well as the HNHB CCAC and the Juravinski Cancer Centre. (See attachment 1 for Interim Advisory Committee membership)

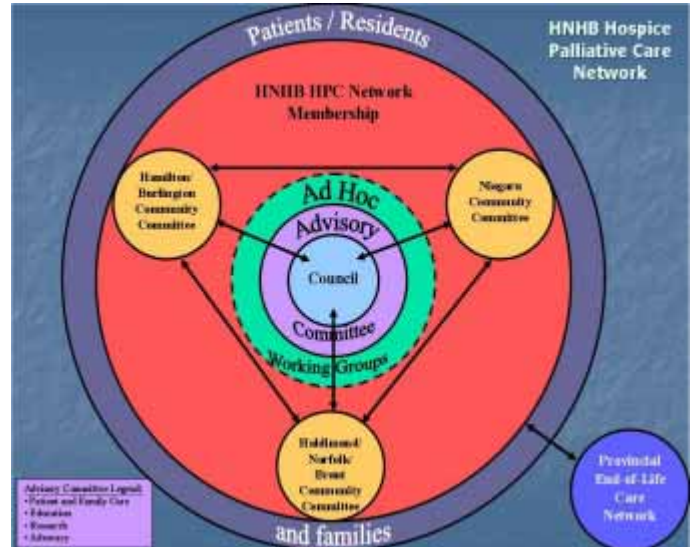


Figure 1: HNHB HPC Network Model

New Advisory Role

As per recent policy changes from the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, the new HNHB HPC Network will also act in an advisory capacity in planning, delivery, implementation and evaluation of the Palliative Pain and Symptom Management Consultation (code 24A) service, and Facility Palliative Care Interdisciplinary Education (code 23A) service.

Appointments

The Interim Advisory Committee has convened twice this spring and has elected Beth Ellis as the Network Chair, appointed Julie Darnay as the Interim Network Director, Kim Glenn as the Interim Administrative Assistant, and confirmed the HNHB CCAC as the Host Agency for the Network. In addition, they have also drafted a 2007-2008 work plan and budget.

Consolidating Operations

Currently, the Interim Advisory Committee is consolidating the previous Networks operations, including the Websites and hopes to have a new HNHB HPC Website up and running very soon. The new Website will be a dynamic, interactive environment to enable regular communication to and from the Network membership. More information regarding the Website will follow shortly.

Logo Contest

A Logo contest is also being offered to interested creative members, so if you exhibit artistic talents and have a fresh new idea for the Network please let us know. Send your draft drawings to 149 Hartzel Road, St. Catharines, Ontario, L2P 1N6 or fax to (905) 228-1019. The winner will receive acknowledgement in the next newsletter and 1 year free registration at all HNHB HPC Network conferences and educational events.

Director Posting

The Network is also seeking to finalize the Network Director position and attached you will find the posting for this job, in both English and French, which we ask you to circulate within your organization. (See attachment 2)

PPSMC (24A) and Interdisciplinary Education (23A)

The Ministry has also recognized that synergies exist between the PPSMC service and the Palliative Care Interdisciplinary Education service, and in regions where the administration for these services has been aligned/consolidated, significant benefits have been noted. Therefore, the Network is following this advice and is also planning to hire additional Consultant positions within the HNHB to fulfill these important functions. We will notify you once these positions are posted.

LHIN Integrated Health Services Plan (IHSP)

Additionally, the Network is actively coordinating the two health improvement projects that are part of the LHIN Integrated Health Services Plan (IHSP). These two projects include the implementation of a standardized hospice palliative care education program, including Fundamentals and Pallium LEAP, as well as partnering with Cancer Care Ontario and the Juravinski Cancer Centre in the implementation of the Provincial Palliative Care Integration Project (PPCIP), including standardized screening and assessment tools, using the Edmonton Symptom Assessment Scale (ESAS) and the Palliative Performance Scale (PPS), evidence-based Collaborative Care Plans and Symptom Management Guidelines.

Standardized Education

To date, over 140 participants have successfully graduated from the Fundamentals course and the Network is currently hosting 9 Fundamentals courses across the HNHB. Fall 2007 sessions are scheduled to include a total of 13 courses across Hamilton, Haldimand Norfolk Brant, Niagara and Burlington. To find out more about Fundamentals or

Pallium LEAP please contact Kim Glenn at 1-800-263-5480 ext. 432 or kim.glenn@hnhb.ccac-ont.ca

Standardized Tools

Regional Improvement Coordinators (RIC) across the province are currently championing the PPCIP for Cancer Care Ontario with a focus on cancer patients being served by the Regional Cancer Centres and the CCACs. Within the LHIN IHSP the Network is additionally responsible for expanding the project beyond the Cancer Care Ontario commitment. This extends the project rollout to other care settings (i.e., family physicians, LTC homes, hospices, and other community service providers) as well as other disease diagnoses (i.e., Parkinson's Disease, ALS, HIV/AIDS etc.). The projects initial focus is on family physicians and family health teams, therefore if you are interested in becoming involved please contact Julie Darnay at 1-800-263-5480 ext. 528 or julie.darnay@hnhb.ccac-ont.ca

HNHB HPC Collaborative Education Calendar

The HNHB HPC Network is also interested in coordinating a LHIN-wide hospice palliative care education calendar for monthly distribution to all HNHB HPC Network members. If your organization is hosting a hospice palliative care educational event or session that is open to the public and would like it to be advertised in the calendar please submit your information to Kim Glenn at kim.glenn@hnhb.ccac-ont.ca by the last week of the month.

Progress Updates

Regular status updates regarding the HNHB HPC Network advancement and the Interim Advisory Committee activities will continue to be provided on a regular basis. A broad membership meeting is currently being planned for November 2007.

Questions or Comments

If you have any questions or comments, or know of someone who would like to join the Network please contact Julie Darnay, Interim Director at 1-800-263-5480 ext. 528 or julie.darnay@hnhb.ccac-ont.ca

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