

STAKEHOLDER UPDATE – NOVEMBER 2017

SWAHN RESTRUCTURING

As noted in our last update, SWAHN's leadership, with recommendations from Network contributors and volunteers, has been working toward revising the Network's structure in order to make changes that are in alignment with both current and future needs while addressing various challenges to ensure continued advancement and value creation as the organization matures. A new organizational structure, approved

by the Steering Committee in September, is based on the tenets of our value proposition: interprofessional collaboration, networking, and knowledge sharing.

SWAHN facilitates interprofessional collaboration, networking, and knowledge-sharing opportunities across health-care related education, research, health service providers, and other stakeholders in Southwestern Ontario to identify gaps and to improve the health of individuals, families, communities, and systems.

SWAHN's Value Proposition

This new structure was presented publicly at the October 13, 2017 SWAHN Conference. We believe that the revisions will address previous challenges associated with communication flow across SWAHN's organizational layers by flattening the structure to improve communication throughout the organization.

The former standing committees have been eliminated in favour of establishing improved two-way communication flow between the Working Groups (now Project Teams) and SWAHN's leadership. The Steering Committee has now become the Network Contributors' Roundtable (NCR), thereby ensuring that all of SWAHN's financial contributors have an opportunity to participate equally in priority setting and

strategic planning in the future – rather than being bound by particular Committee terms. Annual networking events will be planned for the NCR starting in 2018.

More information on the restructuring process, and the new organizational chart, can be found within the slide deck that was presented by Dr. Gillian Kernaghan, Co-Chair, SWAHN NCR, on the website here: <http://www.swahn.ca/41/Resources/>. New Terms of Reference documents and "Stream" descriptions are currently under development and will be released once finalized. Updates to SWAHN's website will take place over the next few months.

STRATEGIC PLAN

SWAHN's strategic plan was finalized in December 2013 for a five year period, 2013-2018. Based on this timing, this plan needs to be revisited and refreshed for the next stage in SWAHN's progress. The original plan was prepared before the Network was fully operational and, as such, is visionary in nature. While the essence of SWAHN's vision will remain the same from its beginnings, the next strategic plan will be developed with more clarity concerning its priorities and pathways to future goals.

FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

In 2017, 18 health care, academic, research, and community organizations in Southwestern Ontario provided funding in support of SWAHN's operations. As a result of increased contributions in 2016/17, SWAHN's annual operating income now sits at **\$121,000**. These funds cover SWAHN's expenses including staff salaries, website hosting/support, supplies, mileage, etc. Given this fiscal reality, SWAHN events (like this year's Choosing Wisely Forum and the SWAHN Conference) have been planned using a cost-recovery model based on income from participant registration fees.



2017 ACHIEVEMENTS

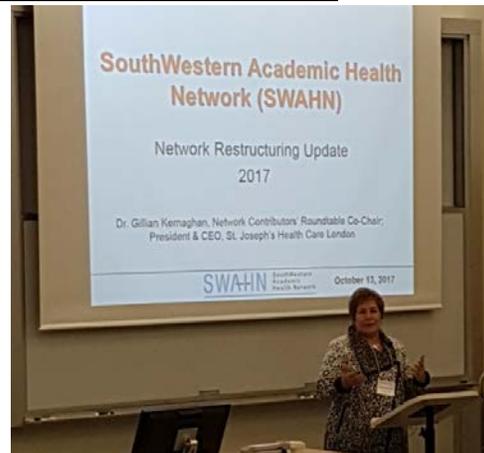
In 2017, SWAHN's activities have resulted in the following achievements:

- **Established a strategic communications plan (March 2017)** – Developed by SWAHN's Communications Advisory Committee and submitted to the South West Local Health Integration Network.
- **Finalized a Network value proposition (March 2017)** – Initiated at the spring 2016 SWAHN Retreat, the Network's value proposition was finalized by the Steering Committee earlier this year. Its three primary tenets: interprofessional collaboration, networking, and knowledge sharing will help shape all aspects of the Network as it reorganizes.
- **IPE Day #2 (April 3, 2017)** – This year, IPE Day gathered 560 students and 55 volunteer facilitators in two venues (London and Windsor). Research from the London venue is currently underway and was highlighted at the SWAHN Conference on October 13, 2017. A planning committee is working towards the next IPE Day to be held on the afternoon of **March 26, 2018**. We will be looking for facilitators from various health care related professions to help guide student teams in both London and Windsor locations. Please contact Catherine Joyes (catherine.joyes@schulich.uwo.ca) if you would like more information on how to participate and/or to be added to the facilitator list!
- **SWAHN Choosing Wisely Forum (May 12, 2017)** – An awareness-building event, the Forum brought together 65 individuals from across the SWAHN region and featured speakers from two Toronto hospitals who shared the challenges and successes associated with their Choosing Wisely initiatives. Event proceedings are now available on our website: <http://www.swahn.ca/41/Resources/>
- **SWAHN Conference (October 13, 2017)** – This year's SWAHN Conference was hosted by Western Health Sciences in the Arthur & Sonia Labatt Building at Western University. In addition to the conference planning team chaired by Dr. Doug Jones, we would like to extend our thanks to the many volunteers from Western Health Sciences who helped to make the conference a success by serving in various different ways throughout the day for set-up, registration, troubleshooting, and tear-down. This assistance was greatly appreciated!

The objectives of the day were to:

- Engage SWAHN's contributors in knowledge sharing;
- Provide an opportunity for SWAHN volunteers to network;
- Highlight SWAHN's recent activities and successes;
- Provide an update on SWAHN's restructuring process.

The conference agenda focused on “*The Patient Voice & Experience in Southwestern Ontario.*” Presentations involving patient partnership frameworks, a patient’s experience in research, and narrative medicine were offered to more than 50 conference attendees. These presentations were followed by a theatrical performance featuring a play written by an Indigenous playwright, Mr. John Boc, entitled “*How the Circus Vanished.*” This award-winning production, set in a mental health facility in the 1970’s, explored the experiences of two Indigenous patients from their own perspectives. The conference proceedings are currently under development and will be released later this fall once completed. Slide-deck presentations from the conference can be found on SWAHN’s website: <http://www.swahn.ca/41/Resources/>



ONGOING PROJECTS

- **Review of Clinical Trials Ontario’s system for streamlined ethics review for multi-site research** – SWAHN’s Research Ethics Harmonization Working Group has reviewed CTO’s online system as a possible solution to the challenges faced by the SWAHN region’s organizations with respect to managing ethics approvals for multi-site research. SWAHN’s goal is to produce a report encouraging

SWAHN-organizations' use of CTO's online process. The release of this report is anticipated later this fall.

- **“Assessing Nutrition Risk in Seniors in the Community Pharmacy” – A Knowledge Translation Workshop** – SWAHN's Nutrition Project Team has developed the following objectives for this workshop geared towards community pharmacists:
 - To increase awareness of the prevalence and impact of malnutrition in seniors;
 - To increase knowledge of the existence and use of nutrition screening and assessment tools;
 - To increase awareness of available community resources for patient nutrition support;
 - To encourage the use of nutrition screening tools for seniors in community based pharmacies;
 - To provide an opportunity for interprofessional collaboration between registered dietitians and pharmacists.

This will be the first SWAHN event held in Waterloo at the School of Pharmacy in March 2018 which is both “Nutrition Month” and “Pharmacist Awareness Month.” A submission for research ethics approval for this project is currently underway at the University of Waterloo. Once approved, this project will permit project-evaluation which will inform the development of a transferrable model for other professions and locales. This project was highlighted at the SWAHN Conference in October 2017. A slide-deck from this presentation is now available on SWAHN's website here:

<http://www.swahn.ca/41/Resources/>

NOTE: SWAHN's focus on building awareness of nutrition screening and assessment tools is based upon a 2015 Canadian Malnutrition Task Force study that “revealed that an astonishing 45 per cent of patients admitted to medical and surgical units in Canadian hospitals are malnourished. The study also found that patients encounter avoidable issues that aggravate the problem of malnutrition during their admission.” See the news release for more details:

<http://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/landmark-study-reveals-that-malnutrition-is-a-serious-yet-avoidable-emergency-in-canadian-hospitals-529755861.html>

- **REB submission for a SWAHN palliative care research project** – SWAHN's Palliative Care Project Team is continuing its efforts to develop an REB submission to enable the analysis of focus group discussions involving nursing educators (RNs/RPNs) from five institutions across the SWAHN region. The goal of this study is to explore gaps/needs in entry-to-practice level education across health care professions in Southwestern Ontario that are engaged in direct service within palliative care environments. Information shared through focus groups and surveys with educators and recent graduates will help to highlight solutions and/or recommendations to address the gaps/needs in current education and training. The overall outcome is to better understand the current curriculum and what may be required in order to build expertise in palliative care prior to practice. A strategy to promote changes/additions to various curricula in the future will be developed once the data has been collected and analyzed.
- **Initial exploration of a regional palliative care hub** – While SWAHN will not lead this project, the Network is facilitating conversations through its Palliative Care Project Team to explore the development of a palliative care hub across the SWAHN region to improve communication and coordination among the various service providers, academia and research.

REGIONAL HIGHLIGHT



In September 2017, Bluewater Health held a workshop for 30 dietitians from the Erie St. Clair LHIN region focused on education and training in the use of Subjective Global Assessments, an internationally validated tool for assessing nutritional status. As a result of SWAHN's Nutrition Project Team, Julie LeBlanc, Senior Dietitian at Bluewater Health, connected with Dr. Janet Madill, Co-Chair of the Project Team, and Ms. Sylvia Rinaldi, Project Team member, to lead the interactive workshop, teaching the skills needed to complete the SGA in order to correctly diagnose malnutrition in both acute care and community settings. Workshop participants worked

through case studies and completed SGAs for mock patients in order to put their skills into practice.

The day's events also included a collaborative discussion on improving the transition of nutrition care for hospitalized patients to their homes and how Registered Dietitians could work improve the flow of communication and the availability of services for malnourished patients in the community. The Clinical Nutrition department at Bluewater Health has partnered with Abbott Nutrition, which has generously supported this endeavor.

CONTACT US – Your questions and comments regarding SWAHN are welcomed. Please feel free to contact us for more information, to share ideas, or to learn about how you may participate in SWAHN's work!

Contact us:

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