

Integrated Approaches to Episodic Disabilities

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Overview of CWGHR Episodic Disabilities Initiatives

- Since 2001, CWGHR has promoted collaborative and integrated approaches to episodic disabilities.
- In the past year, CWGHR has collaborated to strengthen episodic disability initiatives in Canada through:
 - Cross-disability research
 - Advancing public policy and
 - Promoting broad based integration



Overview of CWGHR National Episodic Disabilities Initiatives

To promote cross-disability linkages and action on issues of mutual concern

- Coordinate the national Episodic Disabilities Network (EDN) to link people living with HIV and other episodic conditions on issues of common concern.
- The EDN has two priority areas it focuses on: employment and income support.



Overview of CWGHR National Episodic Disabilities Initiatives Cont.

Some examples of the work of the EDN include:

- Sharing information and best practices in research on e.g. arthritis and employment and a framework to enhance options of labour force participation for people living with HIV/AIDS.
- Analysing organizations' recommendations to the Standing Committee on Finance during its pre-budget consultations Sept-Dec. 2009 and discussing the options for a joint EDN submission for 2010.



Overview of CWGHR National Episodic Disabilities Initiatives Cont.

- Collaborate with partners, to engage policy makers, on the need to develop a national, integrated strategy on episodic disabilities to coordinate income security and employment benefits.
- Oral presentation, on recommendations to income support programs in Canada, to the Standing Committee on Finance during its pre-budget consultations in Oct 2009.



Overview of CWGHR National Episodic Disabilities Initiatives Cont.

- Conduct educational sessions with employers (e.g. Banks, HIV organizations and Government) on:
 - Employment related challenges and barriers faced by people living with episodic disabilities and
 - Accommodation best practices available to support people with episodic disabilities in the workplace.



Overview of CWGHR Episodic Disabilities Initiatives

- Through our work at the national level a need was articulated to start working at the provincial level so as to address jurisdictional issues that are not addressed at the national level e.g. education and health care delivery.
- In 2009, CWGHR started working at the provincial level in Ontario.
- The new provincial work in Ontario is a model that can be adapted across the country.



Overview of CWGHR Ontario Episodic Disabilities Initiatives

- Increase engagement and capacity of Ontario to improve the lives of people living with episodic disabilities through the development of the:
 - Ontario Episodic Disability Network (OEDN); a forum that enables the coordination of episodic disabilities initiatives in Ontario.
 - The Ontario Episodic Disability Resource Centre; a resource centre to provide information and referral on episodic disabilities.



Spotlight on the Ontario Episodic Disability Network (OEDN)

Addressing provincial trends and priorities from a cross disability perspective

- The purpose of the OEDN is to identify needs within Ontario from a unique cross-disability approach.
- The overall goal to increase the engagement and capacity of Ontario to improve the lives of people living with episodic disabilities.
- OEDN participants work to collaborate on cross-disability research, advance public policy and promote broad integration to strengthen episodic disability initiatives in Ontario.



Spotlight on the OEDN Cont.

- The OEDN formed in December 2009 and has over 30 participants.
- It links with the EDN; Martine Mangion sits on both the EDN and OEDN and is the official liaison between the two networks.
- The OEDN is currently creating an OEDN statement of common agenda and is developing areas of work for 2010.



OEDN Key Priority Areas

“A Job, a Home and a Friend”

- Employment and income security
- Adequate and accessible housing
- Reduce stigma and discrimination
- Quality care, services and programs
- Health promotion and wellness



The OEDN Connects



Spotlight on the Ontario Episodic Disability Resource Centre

- An online searchable database which provides information and referral on episodic disabilities.
- CWGHR and Bridgepoint Health are collaborating on the development of the online resource centre. This cooperation will promote synergies, expand each other's areas of expertise, and maximize donor resources and expand the reach, impact and scope of the work.



Spotlight on the Ontario Episodic Disability Resource Centre Cont.

- CWGHR conducted several consultations to obtain engagement / input on the resource centre design and content from a range of sectors including: private sector, government sectors, people living with episodic disabilities, episodic disability groups; researchers and rehabilitation professionals.
- Feedback received from these consultations are being incorporated into the resource centre.



Spotlight on the Ontario Episodic Disability Resource Centre Cont.

Where we are Now:

- We are currently collecting resources for the resource centre and finalizing the terms of the collaboration between Bridgepoint Health and CWGHR.

Next Steps:

- The resource centre is planned to be up and running by March 2011. It will have a 1-800 number and referral service.
- We plan to evaluate the model in Ontario to see if it is adaptable to other regions across the country.

