

JUNE 2016 STAKEHOLDER UPDATE

During the past year, SWAHN has continued to develop new relationships within and beyond Southwestern Ontario. The Network has continued to strengthen its framework and engage new members on its Committees and Working Groups. More than 150 individuals from across the region have demonstrated their commitment to SWAHN through their participation.

SWAHN's most recent accomplishments and ongoing activities are included in this Stakeholder Update. If you are interested in participating in any of SWAHN's initiatives, we would welcome your support.

SWAHN Announcement: Dr. Margaret Steele

Congratulations to Dr. Margaret Steele who will soon be leaving London to take on the Dean's role at Memorial University of Newfoundland's Faculty of Medicine. Her exceptional leadership, passion, and commitment concerning SWAHN will be missed. Please join us in wishing Margaret well in her new role.



As Co-Chairs of SWAHN's Steering Committee, Dr. Gillian Kernaghan, President & CEO, St. Joseph's Health Care London, and Dr. Ken Blanchette, Chair, School of Health Sciences, St. Clair College are working closely with the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry during Dr. Steele's transition regarding her replacement as Co-Chair of SWAHN's Operating Committee.

The Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry's announcement concerning Dr. Steele's departure can be found here:
http://www.schulich.uwo.ca/about/news/2016/june/dr_margaret_steele_takes_on_new_role_at_memorial_university.html

Highlighting SWAHN'S Accomplishments in 2015/16

Recruitment

During the past year, SWAHN's Committees and Working Groups have updated and/or developed terms of reference and have established regular meetings – some with new membership engaged. We are pleased to advise that we have a full complement of Co-Chairs across the network.

For photos and brief biographies of SWAHN's leaders, please visit the governance page on SWAHN's website: <http://www.swahn.ca/35/Governance/>

SWAHN Leadership

Steering Committee: Co-Chairs: Dr. Gillian Kernaghan and Dr. Ken Blanchette

Operations Committee: Co-Chairs: Dr. Margaret Steele and Dr. Robin Walker

Community Engagement Committee: Co-Chairs: Dr. Marnie Wedlake and Dr. Rajasekar Basker

- **Mental Health & Addiction Working Group:** Co-Chairs: Dr. Marnie Wedlake and Mr. Robert Moroz/Dr. Sonja Grbevski
- **Nutrition Working Group:** Co-Chairs: Dr. Alicia Garcia/Dr. Janet Madill and Ms. Christine Wellington

Education Committee: Co-Chairs: Dr. Bertha Garcia and Dr. Ken Blanchette

- **Inter-Professional Education Working Group:** Co-Chairs: Ms. Elaine Lillie & Dr. Kevin Fung
- **Palliative Care Working Group: Co-Chairs:** Ms. Lisa Gardner and Ms. Maura Purdon
- **Simulation Working Group:** Co-Chairs: Professor Judy Bornais and Dr. Lara Murphy

Knowledge Generation & Translation Committee: Co-Chairs: Dr. Robin Walker and Dr. Marlyns Koschinsky

- **Choosing Wisely Working Group: Co-Chairs:** Dr. Maher El Masri and Dr. Robin Walker
- **Research Ethics Harmonization Working Group:** Co-Chairs: Dr. Denise Figlewicz and Dr. Jody Guy-Merritt

Communications Advisory Committee: Co-Chairs: Ms. Jennifer Parraga and Mr. Steve Erwin

New Online Events Module: www.swahn.ca



SWAHN's web presence, hosted by The Healthline.ca, was launched in June 2015. This communications tool promotes the Network and serves as a resource to SWAHN's Committees and Working Groups.

In March 2016, an events module was added to the site. This new feature is intended to draw traffic to the site to learn about events of interest to SWAHN's stakeholders. Upcoming events may also be advertised on this page for free through a simple submission form that is managed by The Healthline.ca. Once submitted, events are posted to SWAHN's site as well as to the South West and Erie St. Clair Healthline sites as appropriate. The administration of this page is efficient as events are removed from the listing once the dates have passed. Check it out here:

<http://www.swahn.ca/event>

SWAHN Retreat

On April 28, 2016, more than 50 individuals representing Network Committees, Working Groups, and financial contributors gathered for a one-day retreat held at Lambton College in Sarnia,



Ontario. The agenda for the day included presentations from three SWAHN Working Groups – one from each standing Committee, as well as a presentation from the Communications Advisory Committee. These presentations focused on key priorities for the Network including research ethics harmonization; SWAHN’s relationship with the Ontario Palliative Care Network; family peer support for mental health and addiction; and the development of a strategic communications plan for the Network.

The second half of the day engaged participants in breakout groups, which were focused on the identification of cross-Committee/Working Group collaborative projects, other key priorities, and the development of SWAHN’s value proposition. Each Committee and Working Group is now

reviewing the results of the discussions to determine next steps for the year ahead.

Our sincere thanks to Spencer Dickson, Vice-President Corporate Performance and Employee Relations, and his team at Lambton College (especially Greg Lee) for hosting the retreat. Your efforts facilitated a productive day of networking and collaboration!

Mental Health & Addiction Working Group Events

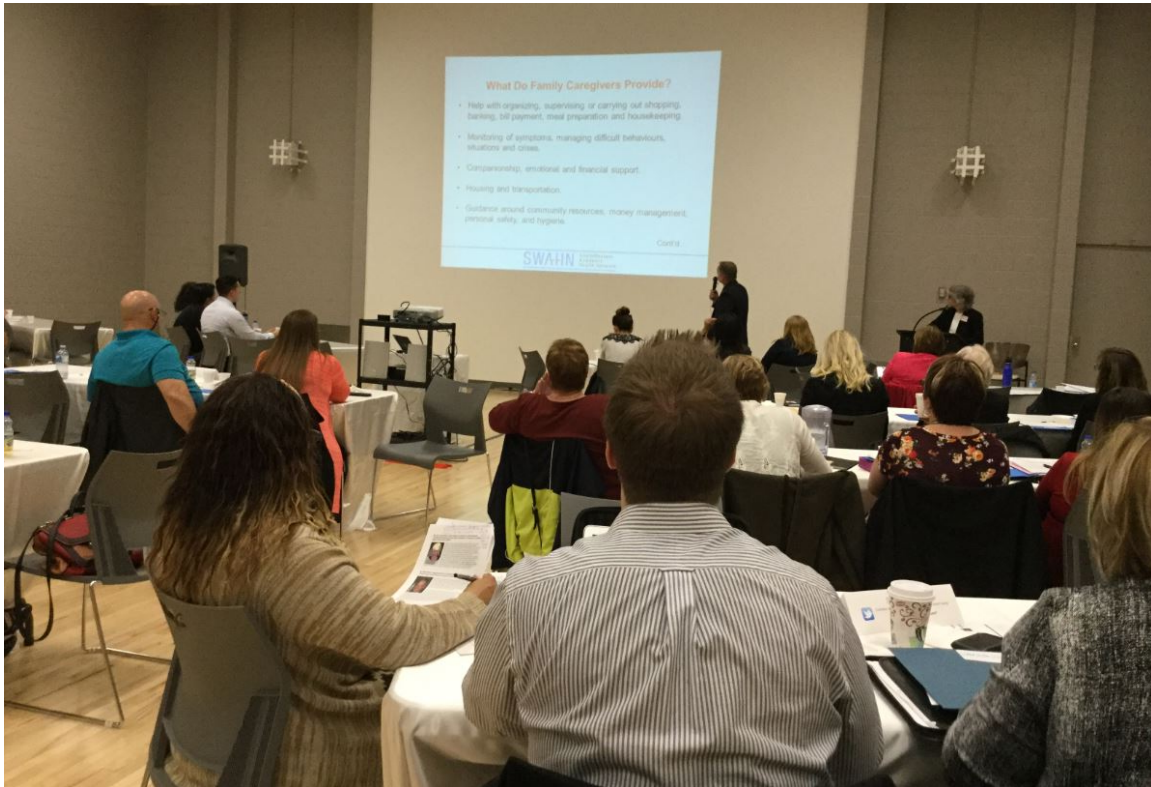
In October 2015, the Mental Health and Addiction Working Group (MHAWG), a sub-group of SWAHN’s Community Engagement Committee, hosted a half day event, *“Exploring Models of Mental Health Peer Support”* at Parkwood Institute in London, Ontario. The purpose of this event was to review and discuss the principles of mental health peer support models currently in operation across Southwestern Ontario. The desired outcomes for this event included an increased awareness and understanding of various mental health peer support models.

This half-day event, engaging 40 individuals, included presentations on mental health peer support perspectives and initiatives existing at the local, provincial, and national levels. Through presentations, group discussions, feedback, and post-event meetings, the importance and relatively solid and well-established position occupied by mental health peer support within the larger mental health system, was made apparent.

It was also apparent to the MHAWG that the majority of peer support efforts are dedicated to serving the needs of those who identify as service users of mental health and addiction treatments, programs, and services. And, while the family members of individuals with mental health and addiction concerns are quite significant in their numbers, and in what has been referred to as the “burden of care” they experience, the attention they receive and the access to peer support that is specific to their needs, is lacking significantly.

It is this area of need that exists within the larger realm of mental health peer support that

informed the theme of the SWAHN's May 2016 research and innovation symposium entitled *"Evaluation, Resilience, and Sustainability in Family Mental Health & Addiction Peer Support"* which was held at Hotel-Dieu Grace Healthcare in Windsor, Ontario.



The primary goal of the symposium was to identify cross-sector (academia and community/hospital) collaborative research projects focused on family mental health and addiction peer support. While a call for abstract submissions was offered across Southwestern Ontario for the symposium, it became clear that research in family peer support is a significantly limited area of focus. It was for this reason that in addition to two research presentations and an experience shared by a family member, a “call to action” to encourage future collaboration and research was offered by the MHAWG Co-Chairs, Dr. Marnie Wedlake and Mr. Robert Moroz.

Symposium objectives

- To increase knowledge about family/informal caregiver mental health and addiction peer support initiatives in Southwestern Ontario;
- To facilitate research networking and collaborations between community and academia;
- To increase research effectiveness and outcomes through partnerships between community and academia;
- To encourage knowledge transfer through collaboration between researchers and knowledge users.

Symposium proceedings – Proceedings to document and summarize the various elements of the event are currently under development by Dorian Murariu, a member of the MHAWG, and recent graduate in Epidemiology & Biostatistics at Western University. SWAHN was pleased to have the event expertly videotaped by Jonathan Martin, a student volunteer from St. Clair College in Windsor. **We would like to thank both Dorian and Jonathan for their efforts!**

Once the proceedings have been completed the document will be posted to www.swahn.ca along with the videos that capture our speaker presentations throughout the day. Speaker slide decks will also be posted to the site.

The presentations included:

- **Keynote Address: “Coming Home: The Place of Family in Treatment”** – Dr. Rick Csiernik, School of Social Work, King’s University College, Western University
- **“Having a Voice: The Ethics of Research on Family Mental Health & Addiction Peer Support”** – Principal author: Dr. Pierre Boulos
- **“The Unique Role of Student as Facilitator for Family Peer Support Initiatives for Informal Caregivers of Individuals with Severe and Chronic Mental Illness”** – Principal author: Dr. Saadia Ahmad
- **“The Family Perspective”** – Ms. Joy Lang, Family Support for Caregivers, CMHA Middlesex
- **“Research in Family Peer Support: A Call to Action”** – Dr. Marnie Wedlake and Mr. Robert Moroz, Co-Chairs, SWAHN Mental Health & Addiction Working Group

In addition to the development and review of the proceedings as well as the symposium participant breakout group responses and feedback forms, the Mental Health & Addiction Working Group will be exploring next steps over the summer months.



Special thanks to Janice Kaffer, President & CEO of Hotel Dieu Grace Healthcare and her staff (especially Sonja Grbevski, Robert Moroz, Barbara Sebben, Shirley Fields, Erica Colovic, and Costin Beliciu) for handling registration, set-up, technology, catering, and promotion of the event. SWAHN was delighted to host its first event in Windsor, Ontario at your organization.

Interprofessional Education Day (IPE Day)

On March 28, 2016, first-year medicine and dentistry students from the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry, Western University joined with first-year pharmacy and optometry students from the University of Waterloo to participate in the first annual IPE Day at University Hospital in London, Ontario. SWAHN’s engagement of both institutions fostered this collaborative effort. Dr. Kevin Fung, Associate Professor, Otolaryngology, Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry; Site Chief, Otolaryngology and Head & Neck Surgery, Victoria Hospital, London Health Sciences Centre, and Ms. Elaine Lillie, Director, Interprofessional Education and Curriculum Management, School of Pharmacy, University of Waterloo, are the Co-Chairs of SWAHN’s Interprofessional Education Working Group.

Considered a pilot project, these 400 students began the day learning about the patient experience from a first-hand account offered by Dr. Ian MacLean. In sharing his personal

perspective as both a cancer patient and a physician, Dr. MacLean advised students of the impact that a team of healthcare providers had on him throughout his illness and later his recuperation.

Students then gathered in groups to review, discuss, and unpack the varying roles that health care professionals from different disciplines can offer to enrich patient care. Through this experience, students were introduced to the importance of interprofessional teams – an essential element of patient care, safety and satisfaction.

For more information on this inaugural SWAHN event, please see the following articles:

- <https://uwaterloo.ca/pharmacy/news/400-students-four-healthcare-professions-team>
- http://www.swahn.ca/Uploads/ContentDocuments/AchievementsReport_FINAL%2011.pdf

Through its event debriefing, SWAHN's Working Group will make adjustments to IPE Day for 2017 as they also look towards the development of regional models for this event in the future.



Palliative Care Working Group – Program Assessment

In January 2016, SWAHN's Palliative Care Working Group was approached by Lambton College to provide an assessment of a proposed online certificate program in palliative care. After conducting a collective review, a follow up teleconference was arranged with the program leads at Lambton College. The College was very appreciative of this work and indicated that they will address the Working Group's recommended changes to enhance their proposed program. This example demonstrates how SWAHN is able to offer value to its financial contributors.

Co-Chaired by Lisa Gardner, Lead, South West LHIN Hospice Palliative Care Network, and Maura Purdon, Director, Erie St. Clair Hospice Palliative Care Network, the Palliative Care Working Group continues to focus its efforts on a gap analysis of palliative care curricula and training for entry-to-practice across health and human service disciplines in Southwestern Ontario. Alignment of the curricula with minimum competency standards is currently in process. A survey to determine the needs of both learners and educators in this area is under development for fall 2016.

Other SWAHN Committee/Working Group Updates

Nutrition Working Group – SWAHN's Nutrition Working Group was formally launched in January 2016. This Working Group falls under the direction of the Community Engagement Committee. In May 2016, the two researchers that were selected at the April 2015 symposium (noted below) offered updates on their projects:

- Stephanie Segave, Manager, Ontario Student Nutrition Program, South West Region, VON – *The Ontario Student Nutrition Program – exploring innovations to strengthen access, delivery, and health outcomes related to a universal student nutrition program.* (Windsor, children/youth, community entry)
- Susan Bird (graduate student at Brescia University College) – *Inadequate Access to Registered Dietitian Services for a High-risk, Vulnerable Patient Population - A Situational Assessment.* (London, children/youth, academic entry)

The Nutrition Working Group has asked both researchers to outline their current needs and how SWAHN might assist their advancement.

Susan Bird has noted that publication of her research is currently in process. Once publication has been finalized, the report will be posted to www.swahn.ca

Simulation Working Group -- The Simulation Working Group (which falls under the direction of the Education Committee) is now Co-Chaired by Professor Judy Bornais, Faculty of Nursing, University of Windsor, and Dr. Lara Murphy, CSTAR, London Health Sciences Centre. After a brief hiatus after Dr. John Denstedt's departure from the Co-Chair role, the Working Group has decided to focus on two projects this year:

- An inventory survey of simulation facilities, programs, and resources across the SWAHN region
- The exploration of shared procurement of simulation supplies among interested SWAHN stakeholders

Release of the simulation inventory survey to SWAHN's financial contributors across the region is planned for September 2016.

Choosing Wisely Working Group – Under the direction of the Knowledge Generation & Translation Committee, the Choosing Wisely Working Group was launched in April 2016. Its mandate is to develop and implement a strategy to advance the knowledge translation of recommendations highlighted by Choosing Wisely Canada in the SWAHN region which speak to improving clinical practice both in terms of patient care and reduced healthcare costs.

The Working Group released a survey to the leaders of SWAHN's financial contributors in May 2016 to collect information on Choosing Wisely projects that are currently in place across Southwestern Ontario. Upon its review of the survey data, the Working Group will determine two or three areas of focus among the 175 recommendations produced by Choosing Wisely Canada.

For more information on Choosing Wisely Canada's 175 recommendations, please see: <http://www.choosingwiselycanada.org/recommendations/>

Research Ethics Harmonization Working Group – Under the direction of the Knowledge Generation & Translation Committee, the Research Ethics Harmonization Working Group was launched April 2016. The purpose of the Working Group is to explore the potential for developing a process for research ethics approvals involving organizations that contribute to SWAHN – particularly when working together on research initiatives that are in keeping with SWAHN’s mission to improve the health in Southwestern Ontario. (NOTE: The Working Group’s efforts will focus on research that involves human subjects and SWAHN-related projects.)

The collective need for a harmonized research ethics process is a topic that was highlighted by several different breakout groups at the SWAHN retreat. It is also a topic that has been raised by SWAHN’s Committees and Working Groups as a priority.

The Working Group is well-positioned to begin its efforts to assess the needs as well as the current practices across the region. At present, the Working Group is building its collective knowledge base as a stepping stone to exploring collaborative solutions for the future.

SWAHN Outreach

In order to build the awareness of SWAHN, and to share updates, several meetings and visits have taken place across the region over the past year. In addition to these meetings, SWAHN’s reach has also extended beyond the region.

During the past year, Dr. Margaret Steele, Dr. Robin Walker and Catherine Joyes have developed a connection with the Greater Manchester Academic Health Science Network (GM-AHSN). Although much larger in terms of its budget, staff complement, and projects under development, there are several similarities in terms of both organizations’ mandates and strategy. We hope to continue our conversations with GM-AHSN and other networks around the world to build upon our learning opportunities for the future.

Association of Academic Health Centers International (AAHCI) 2016 Conference

As a result of Dr. Margaret Steele’s engagement and the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry’s affiliation, AAHCI inquired about hosting its next international meeting in London, Ontario. This is the organization’s first Canadian meeting. It will be held at the Ivey Spencer Leadership Centre in London, Ontario on October 27-28, 2016. This event draws leaders from Academic Health Centres across the globe. This year’s theme will engage participants in the exploration of

innovative ways to integrate technology and healthcare within academic health centres. Once available, registration details will be posted to www.swahn.ca.



Questions? Comments? Interest in Participating?

Your questions and comments regarding SWAHN are always appreciated. Please feel free to contact us for more information, to share ideas, or to learn about how you may become engaged in SWAHN's work!

Dr. Gillian Kernaghan, Co-Chair, SWAHN Steering Committee – gillian.kernaghan@sjhc.london.on.ca

Dr. Ken Blanchette, Co-Chair, SWAHN Steering Committee – kblanchette@stclaircollege.ca

Dr. Robin Walker, Co-Chair, SWAHN Operations Committee – robin.walker@sjhc.london.on.ca

Catherine Joyes, SWAHN Manager – catherine.joyes@schulich.uwo.ca