



The Need to Know...

*Funded by Canadian Institutes of Health Research
(Community Alliances for Health Research)
Co Directors: Patricia Martens & Charlyn Black*

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Manitoba Centre for Health Policy (MCHP)

Moving Full Steam Ahead: NTK Meeting #5

The fifth team meeting for *The Need to Know* project was held October 7, 2002. As usual, the day was full of engaging presentations and discussions.

Deborah Malazdrewicz's presentation on the Decision Support Services division at Manitoba Health focused on their role in the organization, their background, the types of reports and data they work with and information about the 'Working Indicators Group.' In an effort to decide on the topic for the second of three deliverables to be produced in collaboration with *The Need to Know* team, various guests were invited to give presentations on topics under consideration. Renée Robinson (Mental Health), Jane Griffith (Diabetes), Annette Willborn and Margaret Haworth-Brockman (Gender/Women's Issues) Lorraine Dacombe Dewar (Public Health Data), and Alan Katz (Health System Indicators; Primary Care quality indicators) were among the presenters. Other suggestions for topics included adolescent pregnancy, emergency medical services and intervention effectiveness. Following the presentations, a vote was taken and mental health was overwhelmingly chosen as the suggested topic for the next deliverable.

During lunch, members were invited to watch "The Fish Video", a short film on ways of enhancing happiness and creativity in the workplace, and how this benefits employees and employers. *If anyone is interested, two books relating to the video have been acquired by MCHP and are available for loan.*

The afternoon began with an update on Deliverable #1, followed by questions and comments from team members. The deliverable is on schedule and will probably be released by spring 2003. This project focuses on RHA indicators of health and health care use - both between and within RHAs, and over two time periods. In preparation for the facilitated workshop at the Rural and Northern Health Care Meeting the following day, NTK team members received 'facilitator training.' This involved a brief overview of the two reports to be discussed and tips for facilitating group discussion. Marni Brownell summarized the report *Why is the Health of Some Manitobans Not Improving?* and Pat Martens discussed *The Health and Health Care Use of Registered First Nations*

People Living in Manitoba: A Population-Based Study. Sarah Bowen, the NTK project's evaluation coordinator then gave a presentation explaining 'organizational capacity building' - an organization's increased recognition of the importance of evidence-based planning, and the requirements for its implementation. Team members were then briefed on the next homework assignment - to prepare a short report on their organization's barriers to appropriate use of research and how the NTK project can help to overcome these barriers. The day came to a close with a dinner meeting at Tiffani's Restaurant. In usual form, Pat Martens provided the entertainment by dazzling everyone with her amazing string tricks.

The Need to Know team attended the ninth annual Manitoba Centre for Health Policy's Rural and Northern Health Care Meeting the following day. Pat Martens and Marni Brownell each presented a synopsis of their research, followed by the facilitated workshop - representatives from each RHA formed groups to discuss the implications of the reports for their RHA. The NTK team members helped facilitate their RHA's round table.

The afternoon session opened with a presentation by Steven Lewis (*How do you know if you're an evidence-based decision-maker?*) followed by a panel discussion, including Reg Toews, Noralou Roos and Jackie Halliburton. Thanks Steven—this was a real "crowd pleaser!" The meeting wrapped up with overviews of ongoing MCHP research: *Nursing Home Beds in 2020: More? Fewer? Just Enough?* (Carolyn DeCoster) and *Manitoba Seniors: Living Longer; Living Healthier?* (Verena Menec). Both are available on MCHP's public website: www.umanitoba.ca/centres/mchp



Renée Robinson



Jane Griffith



Alan Katz



Steven Lewis



Pat Martens



Interlake RHA Representatives at the annual Rural & Northern Health Care Day

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Rural Health Research Conference:

The third national *Health Research in Rural and Remote Canada* conference was held in Halifax, NS, October 24-26, 2002. Several members of *The Need to Know* team attended the three-day information-packed forum, including Albert de Villiers - MOH Burntwood and Churchill RHAs.

The conference opened with Dr. John Humphries' keynote address "Progress over the past decade in Rural Health in Australia - lessons in workforce issues, service provision and consumer satisfaction." Concurrent session topics included population and community health, physical and work environments, clinical research, aboriginal health, health care organization, and children's health.

Contributions made by NTK team members included presentations by Pat Martens (*Learning from Linkages: Health and Healthcare Use Patterns of Manitoba's Registered First Nations People*), Sarah Bowen (*What Works in Knowledge Translation? Evaluating Manitoba's "Need to Know" Project*), Randy Fransoo (*Which Indicators and Which Borders? Population-Based Information for Manitoba's Regional Health Authorities*) and a poster presentation by Elaine Burland (*The Need to Know: Collaborative Research by the Manitoba Centre for Health Policy, the Rural and Northern Health Authorities and Manitoba Health*).



Need to Know Team members from left: Sarah Bowen, Pat Martens, Albert de Villiers, Elaine Burland and Randy Fransoo

F.Y.I.

- NTK team meetings for 2003: February 4th & 5th; June 10th & 11th; October 6th & 7th.
- 1st NTK Deliverable to be released Spring 2003
- Are you interested in a career in Health Services Research? For information about the "Western Regional Training Centre in Health Services Research (WRTC) contact Elaine Dunn: (204)789-3368 or edunn@ms.umanitoba.ca
- Mark your calendar for the next MCHP Rural and Northern Health Care Day, Tuesday, October 7th, 2003. All are welcome.

NTK Official Team Members:

RHA Members:

Pam Seitz
(Burntwood)
Margaret Fern
(Churchill)
Bev Cumming
(Brandon)
Tannis Erickson
(Interlake)
Jody Allan
(Assiniboine)
Sue Crockett
(Nor-Man)
Eilish Cleary
(North Eastman)
Bonnie Frith
(North Eastman)
Connie Chapen
(Parkland)
Shelley Buchan
(Central)

Betty MacKenzie
(South Eastman)
Faye White
(Assiniboine)

Manitoba Health Members:

Deborah Malazdrewicz
Lorraine Dacombe Dewar
Valdine Berry

MCHP Project Staff:

Pat Martens (Co-director)
Charlyn Black (Co-director)
Sarah Bowen
Randy Fransoo
Elaine Burland
Laurel Jebamani
Charles Burchill
Linda Kostiuik
Eileen Pyke
Darlene Harder

Welcome New NTK Members

On behalf of the Need to Know team a warm welcome goes out to Bonnie Frith who is now a joint team member. Bonnie will be sharing the position with Eilish Cleary representing North Eastman Regional Health Authority.

We would also like to welcome Val Austen-Wiebe who will be joining the team as an observer representing the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority.

We look forward to seeing our team members at the next NTK meeting February 4th and 5th, 2003.