



The Need to Know...

Funded by Canadian Institutes of Health Research
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Manitoba Centre for Health Policy (MCHP)

Mental Health Deliverable: NTK Meeting #6

The sixth *The Need to Know* meeting took place February 4th and 5th, 2003. It was an intense but productive two-day session, focusing predominantly on (i) the second NTK research project—the Mental Health deliverable, and (ii) the process of knowledge translation and research utilization at the organizational level.

Following Pat Martens's always-entertaining opening remarks, the morning session got underway with presentations from different team members on various aspects of knowledge translation. Sarah Bowen, the project's evaluation coordinator clarified many of the confusing terms and concepts associated with knowledge translation in her presentation, *What do we mean by "Knowledge Translation."* For example, distinctions were made between 'knowledge transfer' (the one-way passing of knowledge), 'knowledge exchange' (sharing knowledge), and 'knowledge translation' (making knowledge understandable and accessible) which are often erroneously used synonymously. Elaine Burland's presentation, *How Does All This Fit Together: Collaborative Research and The Need to Know Project*, tied these concepts together and showed how they relate to the project.

The homework assignment from the

preceding meeting was then discussed. The topic this time was the barriers and challenges to research utilization at the RHA/organizational level. Each team member provided feedback regarding organizational barriers, ways in which the NTK project could help overcome barriers, provide support and information, and build needed skills. Many issues were raised including a need for more resources (time, money and human), more training opportunities, building organizational capacity and facilitating organizational attitude change. Jody Allan (Manager of Regional Planning, Assiniboine RHA) followed with her presentation, *Research Utilization and Organizational Change*. This focused on using evidence at the regional level and examined factors affecting knowledge transfer, showing different utilization models and how all this applies to *The Need to Know* project.

After a WONDERFUL lunch served in the glassed-in Buhler Atrium (thanks to campus catering), Christine Ogaranko (Policy Analyst, Mental Health Branch, Manitoba Health) presented information on MHMIS—the Mental Health Management Information System. This is one of the data sources for the next NTK deliverable—the Mental Health Report. MHMIS is managed by Manitoba Health and was



Lunch in the Buhler Atrium

implemented in 1990 across all regions, collecting information on individuals' use of different types of mental health services. For more information see *Deliverable #2: The Mental Health Report* (p.2). The day ended with a dinner meeting at Bailey's Restaurant in Winnipeg's Exchange District. The theme this time was a game on planning for a disaster, which highlighted the fact that a TEAM makes better decisions than an individual.

The second day began with a progress report for the first NTK deliverable—*The Manitoba RHA Indicators Atlas: Population-Based Comparisons of Health and Health Care Use*. It is complete and scheduled to be released in June. Members then updated the rest of the team with information about activities since the last meeting, (e.g., summaries from conferences attended, site visits from MCHP staff, etc.). The afternoon was spent alternating between concurrent skill-building sessions on statistics and computers. If all the smiles are any indication, a good time was had by all!



Statistics Session



Computer Session



Pat Martens (NTK Project Co-Director) & Albert de Villiers (MOH - Burntwood & Churchill RHA) at the dinner meeting

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 (link to the NTK website from here)



Deliverable #2: The Mental Health Report

One of the major activities of *The Need to Know Project* is the creation and development of new knowledge, which involves the completion of three research projects during the course of the project. The Mental Health Deliverable is the second of these three projects. This topic was decided on the basis of extensive discussions with and consensus of *The Need to Know Team*. The co-principal investigators are Drs. Patricia Martens and Carolyn De Coster.

The tentative topics to be covered in this report include (i) the prevalence of specific disorders in Manitoba (e.g., schizophrenia, depression, and substance abuse), (ii) information about MHMIS (the Mental Health Management Information System), (iii) resource use for persons with mental disorders and (iv) rates of suicides and suicide attempts.

For this project, *The Need to Know* team is joined by a working group of experts on mental health, to serve as resource people for specific mental health issues and database use. The working group consists of Eckhard Goerz (CEO, Eden Health Care Services, Eden Mental Health Centre), Dr. John Walker (Director, Anxiety Disorders Program, St. Boniface General Hospital), Christine Ogaranko (Policy

Analyst, Mental Health Branch, Manitoba Health), Renée Robinson (Lecturer, Nursing and Health Studies, Brandon University), Dr. Marni Brownell (MCHP) and Dr. Lisa Lix (MCHP).



Christine Ogaranko
 Manitoba Health

F.Y.I.

- NTK team meetings for 2003: June 9th & 10th; October 6th & 7th.
- Mark your calendar for the **10th Annual MCHP Rural and Northern Health Care Day, Tuesday, October 7th, 2003. All are welcome.**
- 1st NTK Deliverable to be released June 2003—*The RHA Indicators Atlas*
- 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

NTK Team Members:

RHA MEMBERS:

- Jody Allan
- Faye White (Assiniboine)
- Bev Cumming
- Nancy McPherson (Brandon)
- Albert de Villiers
- Jim Bentley (Burntwood)
- Shelley Buchan
- Donna Champagne (Central)
- Margaret Fern (Churchill)
- Tannis Erickson
- Doreen Fey (Interlake)
- Sue Crockett
- Catherine Hynes (Nor-Man)
- Eilish Cleary
- Bonnie Frith (North Eastman)

- Connie Chapen
- Maggie Campbell (Parkland)
- Betty MacKenzie
- Patti Fries (South Eastman)
- Val Austen-Wiebe (WRHA)

MANITOBA HEALTH MEMBERS:

- Deborah Malazdrewicz (Manager of Decision Support Services)
- Lorraine Dacombe Dewar (Director of CHA & Regionalization)
- Valdine Berry (Consultant, Accountability, Monitoring &

Evaluation)

MCHP PROJECT

STAFF:

- Pat Martens (Co-director)
- Charlyn Black (Co-director)
- Sarah Bowen (Evaluator)
- Randy Fransoo (Co-ordinator)
- Elaine Burland (Research Assistant)
- Laurel Jebamani (Research Assistant)
- Charles Burchill (System Analyst)
- Linda Kostiuik (Planning)
- Eileen Pyke (Website/Software)
- Darlene Harder

The Team is Growing!

Welcome to all the new members just joining the NTK team! Each RHA is in the process of designating a second representative to join the NTK team. This will contribute to greater support and continuity for the team. New members will receive orientation training this June, and then it's full steam ahead!



The Need to Know Team - February 2003