

We are pleased to provide the following update on the recent activities of the Child Health Network for the Greater Toronto Area (CHN). For more detailed information please visit our Web site at [www.echn.ca](http://www.echn.ca).

## **Charting the Course: Future Directions and Priorities**

In October, 2000, CHN developed a draft operating plan to stimulate discussion on the strategic directions and priorities that will govern the network's work over the next 15 months. We were pleased that 28 member organizations – representing 93 per cent of our membership – responded to our request for feedback on the document. It was even more encouraging that we were able to obtain full consensus on the proposed strategic directions outlined in the plan. Based on feedback from members, the strategic priorities have been ranked (in order of importance) as follows:

1. To facilitate the implementation of the maternal/newborn and paediatric regional services systems in the GTA (system-building).
2. To shape health care practice and promote greater consistency in service delivery through the development, implementation, and monitoring of a common and consistent set of clinical standards (evidence-based practice).
3. To build the capacity of health professionals in the network by implementing shared education initiatives (system-building).

4. To develop and implement a communications strategy supporting the CHN's vision, mission, goals and activities (communications development).
5. To develop and implement a performance evaluation framework (evaluation & dissemination).
6. To carry out the perinatal care component of the framework as a pilot project (evaluation & dissemination).

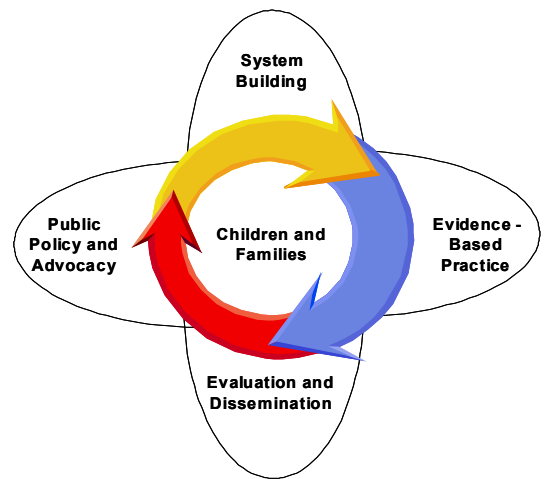
### **In this issue:**

Charting the Course: Future Directions and Priorities..... 1

CHN Performance Evaluation Framework ..... 2

Ontario's Four Child Health Networks Meet..... 3

Supporting the Regionalization of Maternal/Newborn and Children's Services..... 4



We look forward to working with Network members on the directions and priorities outlined in the final plan. Progress updates will be reported regularly in *Network News*.

---

## **CHN Performance Evaluation Framework**

Significant steps have been taken to develop CHN's performance evaluation framework. On January 18, 2001, CHN's Coordinating and Executive committees approved the goal, guiding principles and the criteria for the framework. The framework will provide a solid foundation on which to select and develop measurable indicators to evaluate performance.

The **goal** of CHN's performance evaluation framework is to develop both comprehensive and targeted reports. The reports will be used to shape and improve services provided by the network and its individual members, promoting accountable and effective use of resources, and supporting research initiatives.

The performance evaluation framework will include seven **criteria**:

- Appropriate care (quality)
- Accessibility (timely access)
- Integrated and coordinated care
- Accountability (to CHN's members and the Ministry)
- Effectiveness (outcomes)
- Affordability
- Satisfaction (clients, families, providers)

Lessons learned from the Perinatal Pilot Project will inform the overall evaluation strategy.

### **Perinatal Pilot Project**

We are pleased to announce that the Central East Health Information Partnership (CEHIP) will work with CHN on the Perinatal Pilot Project. Through the Pilot, data on 19 variables will be assessed to determine whether maternal/newborn services are being provided at the most appropriate level of care, as close to home as possible. A meeting with CHN member health records staff will be held in April to begin data collection

## **Supporting the Regionalization of Maternal/Newborn and Children's Services**

Guidelines for the *Clinical Scope of Maternal and Newborn Services* and *Guidelines for the Clinical Scope of Children's Services* have been finalized. The fundamental purpose of the Guidelines was to design a system of health care delivery that will best meet the needs of the region's children and their families. An opportunity to review the Guidelines will soon emerge as the CHN evaluates the performance of the CHN with respect to quality, access, integration and co-ordination. The CHN warmly acknowledges the dedication, commitment and effort of the people who helped to bring these Guidelines into existence.

The **Funding Distribution Work Group** has completed its report on the costs associated with the redistribution of general paediatric patients from the Hospital for Sick Children to regional and community hospitals over the last two years. The report and its recommendations will be submitted to the MOHLTC and member hospitals shortly.

The **CHN Medical Leadership** met in February to develop common strategies concerning issues in areas such as medical manpower and clinical guidelines. A communication forum has been developed to enhance ongoing interaction between children's centres. The group will meet every two months and will be Chaired by Dr. Jonathan Tolkin, CHN Medical Advisor.

Common **Standards and Documentation tools for Maternal and Newborn transfer** are being created through the work of the Maternal and Newborn Services Task Force.

The **Education Committee** has recently distributed a **needs assessment** to all CHN members to determine the education needs to build the capacity of health professionals in the Network. The priorities will be discussed and a plan of action will be completed by March

---

## ***Ontario's Four Child Health Networks Meet***

To learn more about the activities of Ontario's four child health networks, and to explore opportunities for collaborative efforts, CHN hosted a meeting with representatives from the four child health networks in early February. In addition three invited representatives from the provincial government – Dave Thompson, ADM Ontario Children's Secretariat, Lynne Livingstone, Integrated Services for Children Division, and Linda Kostrzewa, Ministry of Health and Long Term Care – participated in the discussions. We hope that this meeting is the first of many in which we can look for ways to work together to improve the health of Ontario's children.

The four networks are:

### **Western Ontario Regional Paediatric Network**

Children's Hospital of Western Ontario (CHWO) at the London Health Sciences Centre is the regional Children's Hospital for Southwestern Ontario. In spring of 1997, the Health Services and Restructuring Commission (HSRC) asked CHWO to establish a Regional Paediatric Network to facilitate the coordination of planning and delivery of children's health services, including mental health and adolescent services. CHWO provides care to children throughout the region and receives referrals from 8 regional and 20 community hospitals. Contact Ellen Rosen: [ellen.rosen@lhsc.on.ca](mailto:ellen.rosen@lhsc.on.ca).

### **The Central West-Central South Child Health Partnership (CHP)**

The Central West-Central South Child Health Partnership's (CHP) mission is to facilitate optimal health care for infants, children and youth in their region. CHP is led and supported by Children's Hospital, Hamilton Health Sciences Corporation. Membership includes 16 hospitals and 8 CCACs in the regions of Niagara, Haldimand-Norfolk, Brant, Hamilton-Wentworth, Kitchener-Waterloo, Wellington, Halton, Burlington and Dufferin. CHP is involved with numerous organizations who are interested in working collaboratively to improve health care for children and their families, including: Children's Treatment Centres, Public Health Units, Infant Parent Programs, Family Networks, District Health Councils, and Boards of Education. Contact Don Buchanan: [buchanan@hhsc.ca](mailto:buchanan@hhsc.ca).

### **Child and Youth Health Network for Eastern Ontario (CYHNEO)**

In 1997, the HSRC asked the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario to establish a Regional Paediatric Network to improve the health and wellbeing of children and youth in Eastern Ontario. The network's primary task is to create opportunities for increased collaboration, integration and improved service delivery through partnerships, and the use of a health promotion approach. CYHNEO serves Eastern Ontario including the Counties of Ottawa-Carleton; Renfrew; Stormont, Dundas, Glengarry; Prescott Russell; Lanark, Leeds, Grenville; and two First Nation reserves. Membership includes representatives from different sectors and disciplines in the health, social services, education, and recreation communities, along with the Ministries of Health and Long-term Care, Community and Social Services, Culture and Recreation. Contact Denise Albrecht: [albrecht@cheo.on.ca](mailto:albrecht@cheo.on.ca).

### **Child Health Network for the Greater Toronto Area (CHN)**

CHN is a partnership of community and hospital providers working together to build a regional, high-quality, family-centered health system for mothers, infants, children and youth across the GTA. Membership includes 20 hospitals and the 10 CCACs in the GTA. CHN's core services are: system building; supporting evidence-based practice by facilitating a common and consistent set of clinical guidelines across the Network; evaluation & dissemination of knowledge; and influencing public policy through advocacy and liason. Contact Shehnaz Alidina, [shehnaz.alidina@sickkids.on.ca](mailto:shehnaz.alidina@sickkids.on.ca).

---

## Member News

We would like to use a portion of *Network News* to highlight successes of Network members and regional clusters. We would also like to profile staff or groups of staff within CHN member organizations who have made significant contributions to child and maternal/newborn services in GTA. Please forward submissions to [heather.dawson@sickkids.ca](mailto:heather.dawson@sickkids.ca).

## News from HSC

Alan L. Goldbloom, M.D., has been appointed Executive Vice-President and Chief Operating Officer at The Hospital for Sick Children. Dr. Goldbloom will have overall day-to-day operational responsibility for the hospital. Prior to this recent appointment, Dr. Goldbloom was Senior Vice President, Clinical and Academic Affairs at HSC. Dr. Goldbloom is a member of the CHN's the Executive Committee.

## Activities on the Horizon

### Consensus Forum on Clinical Guidelines

One of the key tasks of the CHN is to shape health care practice and promote greater consistency in service delivery by facilitating the development of a common and consistent set of clinical guidelines across the network. To support work in this area, CHN's Coordinating Committee will be holding an invitational consensus forum on Clinical Guidelines in April to:

- determine the role of the CHN in the development of guidelines;
- identify priority guidelines to be developed/implemented; and
- identify the most appropriate process for the development of guidelines.

Prior to the forum, the CHN secretariat will be developing an inventory of current guidelines that members have in place, work of external groups in this area, and potential gaps.

## CHN Secretariat

We are pleased to announce that **Donna Sims** has joined CHN as **Administrative Assistant**. Donna's extensive experience with office administration in the health care field includes supporting physicians and surgeons in busy clinical practices, as well as scientists involved in research activities. Donna has worked at York Central Hospital, The Wellesley Hospital and most recently at the University Health Network, Division of Cardiology in the Toronto General Hospital. Contact Donna at (416) 813-6137.

**Catherine Wang** will join CHN in March to lead **Emergency Health Services Coordination** and related **Special Projects**. Catherine will bring experience from St. John's Rehabilitation Hospital where she served as Corporate Planner and Quality Management Coordinator. She has experience in organizational performance measurement and other quality-related activities and a wide-range of planning experience, including strategic and operational planning and business development. Catherine currently serves on the Board of Directors of the Victorian Order of Nurses – Toronto-York Branch. She is a graduate of the University of Ottawa, with a Master's degree in Health Administration.



## Child Health Network for the Greater Toronto Area

180 Dundas Street West, Suite 2105

Toronto, Ontario M5G 1Z8

Telephone: (416) 813-6137

Fax: (416) 813-8309

[www.eCHN.ca](http://www.eCHN.ca)

