



STAFF REPORT INFORMATION ONLY

HealthForceOntario Inter-Professional Care Education Fund

Date:	August 25, 2008
To:	Advisory Committee on Long-Term Care Homes and Services
From:	General Manager, Long-Term Care Homes and Services
Ward:	All
Reference Number:	

SUMMARY

HealthForceOntario is the province's multi-year Health Human Resources strategy, led by the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, in collaboration with the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities. HealthForceOntario aims to ensure that the people of Ontario have the right number and type of appropriately educated health care professionals when and where needed and to recognize and support health care workers as the most important resource of the health system.

HealthForceOntario has an Inter-Professional Care/Education Fund, intended to be a source of funding for innovative inter-professional care/educational programs. In response to a call for proposals released by HealthForceOntario in the early 2007, the Long-Term Care Homes and Services Division and Sherbourne Health Centre collaborated with the Michener Institute of Applied Health Sciences (TMI) to establish a Chiropody teaching program on-site in a long-term care home (Fudger House) and a community agency serving seniors (Sherbourne Health Centre).

The proposal was submitted as a health education project, with the intent of developing an inter-professional education program in chiropody that would also improve health outcomes for seniors in the geographic area in primary care, community care and long-term care sectors. TMI is the only comprehensive chiropody educational program in Canada. TMI is developing a culture of life-long learning through its inter-professional curriculum, which emphasizes the principles and competencies of inter-professional collaboration and allows adult learners to have immediate opportunities to practice.

In July 2008, the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care notified TMI that the proposal for collaborative inter-professional chiropody education at TMI, Sherbourne Health

Centre and Fudger House was approved by the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care for funding. This report will update the Advisory Committee on Long-Term Care Homes and Services regarding the plan.

Financial Impact

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

ISSUE/BACKGROUND

Chiropody care in Ontario is an under-serviced need, especially as a result of the aging population and the complexity of chronic diseases and associated morbidities. Collaborating with community partners to address chiropody health issues in an inter-professional care environment will contribute to enhanced patient-centred care and may help to reduce the burden on the health system if preventative measures are taken early.

In order to promote inter-professional education and clinical environment, TMI collaborated with Sherbourne Health Centre and Fudger House to maximize access to care for an under-serviced population and provide an opportunity for clinical educational experiences for students.

This innovative clinical model will provide patient-centered care, inter-professional collaboration to minimize barriers to care for patients and their families. The principal objectives are: to educate and train highly competent health caregivers to work in inter-professional, collaborative teams; to provide a positive learning environment that focuses on patient-centred care; to improve access and range of chiropodial services to under-serviced, high risk populations in order to have a positive impact on their health and quality of life; to introduce students to a long-term care setting and to model inter-professional education and inter-professional care (IPC) practices that can be transferred to different health care settings.

The proposal recognized that it is very important to integrate clinical practice and formal education as early as possible so that Ontario's future health care workforce is appropriately prepared to work in complex health care teams and environments. The proposal noted that students will engage in evidence-based, inter-professional curriculum at TMI in conjunction with learning practice elements at local integrated clinical sites. The students' clinical experience will include six hours of practice per week in their first year of study, increasing to 35 hours per week in Year three. Project partners will recruit patients. The partnership builds the foundation for formal processes that will provide inter-professional education curriculum, together with training opportunities for health caregivers while meeting health care needs of vulnerable and under-serviced communities.

In late July 2008, TMI, Sherbourne Health Centre and Fudger House were notified by the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care that the proposal had been approved for implementation.

COMMENTS

The Chiropody Clinical Education and Treatment Centre will maximize the strengths and expertise of each of the Project partners. The Clinic operations will be managed by TMI's Business Manager, Chiropody or designate in conjunction and consultation with the Medical Director or designate of Sherbourne Health Centre, the Medical Coordinator for the City of Toronto Long-Term Care Homes and Services and the Medical Director or designate of Fudger House. This model provides all partners with equal opportunity for input. Together, partners will discuss patient recruitment, clinic scheduling and all other administrative and clinical management. The Business Manager will be responsible for staffing of clinical educators, student placement and clinical curriculum.

Sherbourne Health Centre and Fudger House will provide administrative support for the clinics, which will be done in conjunction with other programs or services already in place. Clinical educators will be faculty from TMI Chiropody Program. The Sherbourne Health Centre will give clinical appointments to chiropody faculty, which will allow them to enter the Centre and treat chiropody patients. Long-Term Care Homes and Services will enter into the City's standard service agreement for clinical placements, which will allow students to enter the home and treat residents. Residents will be provided with clinic appointments only following informed consent. Clinical instructors will supervise students as they assess and treat patients. Instructors will provide feedback and support to students as part of the program's curriculum.

The Medical Directors or designates will participate in the Chiropody Program Advisory Committee, enabling Sherbourne Health Centre and Long-Term Care Homes and Services to be involved in the educational process at the grassroots level, offer valuable input, co-monitor and evaluate success. These roles are a clear demonstration of the interface between education and clinical practice.

The care and education program will be inter-professional in nature. For example, registered dietitians and/or nutrition managers may assist patients with creating a nutrition plan that will ameliorate existing chiropodial conditions or symptoms; rehabilitation assistants (in conjunction with the home's contracted physiotherapists and/or occupational therapists) may assist residents with creating a mobility and muscle strengthening plan as part of a falls prevention strategy.

Partners anticipate that there will be significant benefits as a result of the project. Expected results include but are not limited to:

- Enhanced quality patient care by strengthening and growing the multidisciplinary nature of the care environment;
- Decreased barriers to care for patients;
- Enhanced student learning and hands-on experience in a collaborative, inter-professional environment;
- Reduced time to achieve clinical competency for entry-to-practice caregivers;

- Adoption of an integrated education and clinical model that will be able to serve as a model for other professions;
- Creation of a culture of excellence and the development of a ‘teaching long-term care home model’ in chiropody care.

Since receipt of the approval letter from the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, the partners have participated in a teleconference to initiate implementation planning based on revised timelines and have identified potential members for the advisory committee.

This is an exciting opportunity for Fudger House to participate in, influence and improve inter-professional education and enhance access to chiropody services for seniors generally without ready access to this service.

Senior staff of the division will update the Advisory Committee on Long-Term Care Homes and Services once timelines have been confirmed.

CONTACT

Sandra Pitters, General Manager, Long-Term Care Homes and Services
Phone: (416) 392-8907; Fax: (416) 392-4180; E-mail: spitters@toronto.ca

SIGNATURE

Sandra Pitters
General Manager, Long-Term Care Homes and Services