



STAFF REPORT ACTION REQUIRED

Request for Expenditure, Education Donations Account – 2010 Spring Family Education Session

Date:	April 1, 2010
To:	Advisory Committee on Long-Term Care Homes and Services
From:	General Manager, Long-Term Care Homes and Services
Wards:	All
Reference Number:	

SUMMARY

The Long-Term Care Homes and Services Division has an established history and commitment in promoting and supporting family education opportunities. This is evidenced through the many learning venues offered to family members, whether it be through family education nights/events facilitated by the individual homes, the “Just for Families” educational brochures or inter-home/community family education sessions.

The division initiated an inter-home family education series in 2005, broadening invitations in 2009 to community clients’ families and caregivers. Generally, the inter-home family/community education series has convened twice a year and based on the advice and suggestions provided through the Inter-Home Advisory Committee, the venues and times have varied so as to be as convenient/inclusive to as many family members as possible. Topics that have been covered in these series have included “visiting a family member who has dementia”, “getting involved in the home”, “a closer look at dementia care” and “aging in a diverse society” to name only a few. Attendees’ evaluations indicate that they highly value these learning opportunities. The feedback in the evaluations provides suggestions and ideas for future topics of interest.

The division is hosting the 2010 spring Family Education session at Bendale Acres on May 18, 2010 (2:00 PM to 4:00 PM) on the topic “A closer look at Caregiver Stress”. The session’s facilitator is Mr. Teferi Adem, from the Alzheimer’s Society of Toronto. This report requests approval of an expenditure of \$50.00 from the Education Donations account, as an honorarium to recognize Mr. Adem’s contribution.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The General Manager recommends that the Advisory Committee on Long-Term Care Homes and Services endorse the requested expenditure of \$50.00 from the divisional Education Donations account as an honorarium for the guest speaker at this session.

Financial Impact

There is no impact on the operating budget. This expenditure request is for use of the Education Donations account and is made in accordance with the criteria for the use of this fund.

COMMENTS

While the overwhelming majority of family members caring for a dependent relative provide adequate to excellent care, there is emerging evidence of negative health outcomes when the caregiver role and relationship becomes fragile or “troubled”. These relationships are often complex and multifaceted, including the dimensions of culture, physical and/or cognitive needs, anger, depression, isolation or grief. There is considerable interest among both academics and service providers to explore and assist people in understanding the potential connectedness between the facets of caregiving, caregiver stress and the potential for burnout, abuse and/or neglect. While we may often think that the caregiving role remains only in the domain of the community, the caregiving role and associated feelings and relationships do not cease when the family member is admitted to a long-term home.

Recognizing these complexities and sometimes conflicting dynamics, the topic of caregiver stress was thought to be timely and an opportunity to facilitate connections and linkages with additional community resources through community support groups to assist in prevention and in building personal coping skills.

This session, facilitated by the Mr. Teferi Adem of the Alzheimer’s Society of Toronto, will include information on: the 10 signs of caregiver stress, sources of stress and coping strategies. It is expected that this session may be of interest to family members of both residents in our long-term care homes as well as family members of community clients (i.e. Adult Day Program, Supportive Housing and Homemakers and Nurses Services Program), as well as within the community-at-large.

The expenditure for the honorarium would not exceed the requested amount, and would be a small token of recognition for the facilitation of this special educational event within the division.

CONTACT

Michael Saunders, Resident-Client Advocate, Long-Term Care Homes and Services
Tel: 416-392-2957; Fax: 416-392-4180; Email: msaunde@toronto.ca

SIGNATURE

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