

OHHN Strategic Plan – Renovating the Ontario Heart Health Network

Strategic Directions and Action Plan around Structure, Communication, and Resourcing September 2006

MISSION STATEMENT

To raise awareness of chronic disease prevention efforts on behalf of the membership, and to support the membership through opportunities to learn, share and network.

Vision: Aspirations – the OHHN in 2007

- Adequate and stable funding for chronic disease prevention
- A larger, more inclusive and developed network with clearly defined communication with appropriate alliances
- Successful community outcomes in chronic disease prevention

ACTION PLAN

The document is organized in order to profile our goals and objectives around Network Membership, Advocacy and Communication first (i.e. what we wish to achieve), then outlines recommendations on Structure and Resourcing (i.e. how we will achieve it).

NETWORK MEMBERSHIP

- The primary purpose of the network is to meet the needs of those involved in delivering initiatives under the OHHP funding guidelines.
- Membership is open to OHHP coordinators, local partners and others interested in staying connected to the OHHP coordinators and coalitions.
 - *Definitions: Local partners refer to organizations and individuals in our community coalitions. "Others interested" refers to other OHPRS reps, provincial organizations etc. However, their reason for being a member (and coming to our meetings) is in order to link with the OHHP funded projects. The Ontario Chronic Disease Prevention Alliance is considered to be the venue for broader provincial networking with the provincial NGOs.*
- Local partners will be encouraged to become more involved.
- Decision making model: Consensus will be reached whenever possible. Votes will be held if necessary. Only OHHP coordinators and local partners will be eligible to vote.
 - Because there is concern about the different # of people in attendance at network meetings from each project, the decision was made to designate 2 votes per project.
 - Given the concern that some partnerships may not have 2 reps at an OHHN meeting, topics that will be put to a vote will be sent out ahead of time so that coordinators can consult with their chairs and bring that opinion forward

GOAL: INCREASED AWARENESS OF THE ONTARIO HEART HEALTH NETWORK AND OHHP

Objectives:

1. *To link the local OHHP-Taking Action for Healthy Living projects with provincial strategic efforts.(hopefully initiated by the Ontario Chronic Disease Prevention Alliance)*
2. *To position the importance of a comprehensive, community driven health promotion approach to chronic disease prevention in the province of Ontario. (as per the recommendations of OHHP Phase 1 evaluations)*
3. *To work with the Ministry to secure continued funding for the OHHP, and provide input and advice around the guidelines*

Next Steps

- o Become an affiliate member of the Ontario Chronic Disease Prevention alliance – in order to provide input to provincial direction. A member of the OHHN executive will represent the network.
- o Position OHHP – Taking Action for Healthy Living coalitions as the link to the local level for provincial advocacy efforts
- o To position the importance of a comprehensive, community driven health promotion approach at all opportunities
- o Issues that arise around the administration of the OHHP Phase 2 will be addressed on a case by case basis (e.g. OHHP budget claw backs)
- o a working group will be formed (made up of coordinators and others) to develop a strategy around securing funding for a possible Phase 3.

GOAL: IMPROVED COMMUNICATION

- *Communication Goal: To enhance communication and synergy among local projects involved in the OHHP*
 - a) To increase the connectedness among OHHN members and the network as a whole
 - b) To increase knowledge of other local projects
 - c) To increase awareness of the OHHN among members and the value of mutual support and networking.
 - d) To refine and improve where necessary 2-way communication between local projects and the MOHLTC , the OHPRS and the HHRC
- *Communication Goal: To link local projects with provincial strategic efforts*
 - e) To improve two way communication with the Ministry of Health Promotion around OHHP decisions and around possible Phase 3
 - f) To increase and maintain a two-way link between Continuation Working Group and the membership
 - g) To optimize two way communication with the Ontario Chronic Disease Prevention Alliance and other provincial bodies e.g. OSNPPH (Ontario Society of Nutrition Professionals working in Public Health)

Next Steps

- o Organize a meeting between representatives of the OHHN, the Heart Health Resource Centre and the Ministry of Health Promotion to determine roles and responsibilities around these communication objectives and recommended action steps (below)
- o Bi-annual network meetings will be formatted to meet these communication goals (better links between projects, getting to know people from outside your region etc) (Decision made not to hold an OHHN-Taking Action for Healthy Living Conference in the next 2 years. However, popular networking strategies from the conference will be incorporated into the bi-annual network meetings.)

- Define our relationship with the Ontario Chronic Disease Prevention Alliance.
- Email shall be the primary mode of communication
- Utilize and support the heart-I listserv and the OHHP coordinator listserv to allow members to post questions and ideas
- That minutes of both the Leadership (Executive) Committee and Continuation Working Group be distributed to all members
- The name of the OHHN will remain the same, with the addition of “Taking Action for Healthy Living” as an identifier
- Decide upon a logo for the “OHHN – Taking Action for Healthy Living”
- Develop a communications tool (e.g. a pamphlet) and short orientation session to be included in the HHRC orientation for new coordinators
- Initiate discussions with the HHRC around a “mentor system” for new coordinators

STRUCTURE

- The broader membership will be lead by an executive committee. (see below)
- Working groups will be formed as necessary to work on specific tasks.

Next Steps

Executive Committee

- To be lead by 2 co-chair positions
- To include a representative from each region (Eastern, North East, Northwestern, Central East, Central West, Southwest) and a number of members at large (no maximum at this point).
- Members at Large: One member at large would be a past co-chair. Other members would include chairs of any work groups formed. Others could be invited to participate because they bring expertise in a certain area. These representatives could be either an OHHP coordinator or a local partner (although we recognize that this is unlikely)
- Heart Health Resource Centre and Ministry of Health Promotion will be members at large (and non-voting)
- A representative from the Ontario Chronic Disease Prevention Alliance may be invited to sit as a member at large
- Review terms of reference and revise to include definitions of other member at large positions
- One executive member will act as our representative on the Ontario Chronic Disease Prevention Alliance

Working Groups

- A working group will be established to work on objectives around raising awareness and securing continued funding
- A second group will be formed to work in partnership with the Heart Health Resource Centre and the Ministry of Health Promotion around the communication objectives.

RESOURCING

The Executive foresees a need for funding to hire a staff to support the OHHN in achieving its communication and awareness objectives.