



PUBLIC HEALTH RESEARCH, EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT (PHRED) PROGRAM



City of Hamilton Social
and Public Health
Services

Kingston, Frontenac
and Lennox &
Addington Public
Health

Middlesex-London
Health Unit

Ottawa Public Health

Sudbury & District
Health Unit

Public Health Division
Ministry of Health and
Long-Term Care

TO: PHRED Provincial Steering Committee Members
c: Provincial PHRED Operations Committee

FROM: Louise Picard, Chair, Provincial PHRED Operations Committee

RE: PHRED Program Update

Date: April 28, 2005 – PHRED Provincial Steering Committee Meeting

INTRODUCTION

On behalf of the PHRED Operations Committee, I am pleased to provide an update of activities since our last meeting on November 16, 2004. The Operations Committee continues to hold teleconference meetings monthly and operational and program activities are ongoing and numerous. The Operations Committee appreciated the input of the Steering Committee in February as we developed our 2005 work plan. It was acknowledged at that time that the plan was ambitious and with the public health renewal process underway, there would be a need for flexibility and constant revisiting of priorities. This report provides highlights of 2005 provincial activity to date based on our work plan. We welcome your feedback and guidance in this exciting year for public health.

Public Health Renewal

PHRED participated in the Public Health Capacity Mapping survey and the key informant interview for OPHA Constituent Societies. The need for public health practitioners with advanced preparation (Masters and PhD) to integrate research, education and practice and recruitment issues were highlighted as well as the critical importance of linking academic and practice sectors.

The review of the PHRED Programs will be incorporated into the Local Capacity Review of Health Units and the Agency Implementation Task Force. There is PHRED membership on the following Capacity Review Committee sub-committees: Public Health Human Resources, Research and Knowledge Transfer as well as the Reference Panel.

PHRED Spring Days Meeting

Staff from across the 5 PHRED sites will be meeting in Toronto on April 27 and 28. Dr. Sheela Basrur has been invited as a keynote speaker and to dialogue on the public health renewal process and emerging issues. The second day will focus on e-health and applications to public health in Ontario. Other topic areas for discussion include: knowledge transfer, research ethics, student education, quality management initiatives, and partnership models.

PHRED 2004 Deliverables Report and 2005 Work Plan

The PHRED Programs have submitted their annual summary of 2004 deliverables to the Public Health Division. The summary posted on the PHRED website at www.phred-redsp.on.ca, includes

publications, presentations, description of research and evaluation activities and student education activities from the 5 PHRED Programs (Hamilton, Kingston, London, Ottawa and Sudbury).

The PHRED Programs have completed the 2005 Provincial Work Plan, which was approved by the Provincial PHRED Steering Committee. The Plan which was submitted to the Public Health Division emphasizes three key objectives:

- to provide evidence to support effective and efficient public health practice
- to provide leadership in the education of future public health professionals
- to provide leadership in public health research and education through partnership

The Work Plan is posted at www.phred-redsp.on.ca

Each PHRED also has a local work plan outlining local research and evaluation activities such as Bullying Prevention Program Evaluation (Hamilton); Evaluation of "Drive for Life" Program (Kingston); Violence Against Women: Health Care Provider Survey (London); Reducing Youth Smoking in Ottawa: Survey (Ottawa); Food Handler Training Program Evaluation (Sudbury).

PHRED PROGRAM ACTIVITY UPDATE

The following highlights some recent PHRED activities since the November 16, 2004 PHRED Provincial Steering Committee meeting and includes some progress updates on key initiatives from the 2005 Provincial PHRED Work Plan as well as some new emerging opportunities.

1. RESEARCH

ANDSOOHA-PHRED MENTORSHIP PROJECT

A proposal for \$72,620 focusing on mentorship submitted in partnership with ANDSOOHA to the Ontario Nursing Secretariat was successfully funded. This project includes the development of a Nurse Mentorship curriculum to ease the transition for nurses new to public health and to support those serving as mentors. Charlene Beynon from London PHRED is leading the PHRED research team.

BENCHMARKING

West Nile Virus Benchmarking Project

Data analysis completed for West Nile Virus Benchmarking Project. Meeting is scheduled for April 26, 2005 with participating Health Units to discuss the results and to revise the questionnaire. Final report to be completed by Fall 2005.

Modifications to Benchmarking Website in 2005

Improvements have been made to the Benchmarking website to facilitate use of site and interpretation of results.

Regional Benchmarking Workshops

A series of 4 regional workshops (to be held in Kingston, Sudbury, Hamilton, London) for **each** of the following benchmarking website projects will be held between May and November 2005. The workshops will bring health units management staff together to share experience and to review results from each project with a view to identifying common practices among these health units. Workshop proceedings will be prepared for each project.

- May: Breastfeeding Support project (questionnaire revised in March 2005)
- September: Immunization Record Process (questionnaire to be revised in June 2005)
- November: Food Premises Inspection (questionnaire revised in December 2003)

Participating health units must complete 2005 questionnaires for each project in which they participate well in advance of the scheduled workshop date(s) to allow for the preparation of reports from the website database.

CORE COMPETENCIES

The PHRED Programs continue to play a key role in the OPHA Core Competencies Task Group and the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC). Isabelle Michel is a member of the Steering Committee and Task Group.

The OPHA Core Competencies project has received funding from MOHLTC and PHAC: 1) to develop a logic model and draft long-term strategy for Ontario; 2) for OPHA Constituent Society Capacity Mapping; 3) for planning and presenting at March 22-23 meetings to discuss development of a companion Canadian public health core competencies document (to be used as a basis for pan-Canadian and Ontario wide consultations), based on the draft technical document authored by Dr. Brent Moloughney. The group is working to secure additional funding from MOHLTC and PHAC.

PHRED has been approached by the PHAC to author a companion document on Canadian public health core competencies. A provincial PHRED working group with representation from all 5 PHREDS has been formed to develop all Core Competencies deliverables requested by either OPHA or PHAC (companion document, on-line consultation tool, analysis of all consultation data for Ontario, long-term evaluation plan, etc.).

EFFECTIVE PUBLIC HEALTH PRACTICE PROJECT

The Effective Public Health Practice Project (EPHPP) is a core deliverable of the PHRED Program and an excellent source of evidence-based literature. Documents can be downloaded from the EPHPP website at <http://www.hamilton.ca/phcs/ephpp>. Work has begun on the two reviews scheduled for 2005:

- School-Based Interventions to Reduce Adolescent Risk Behaviour
- Interventions to Prevent Excessive Weight Gain During Pregnancy

The departure of Sandra Micucci, Research Coordinator from Hamilton PHRED and funding issues is creating challenges for the EPHPP program.

PHRED is supporting a research project "*Evaluating the Evidence on Knowledge Brokers*" which is led by Dr. Maureen Dobbins from McMaster University, and aimed at determining how to best meet the needs of decision makers in disseminating research evidence (i.e. systematic reviews) and synthesize all of the primary research in one area. This CIHR study resulted in the development of a searchable online registry of research related to the effectiveness of public health and health promotion interventions. The www.healthevidence.ca website was launched on March 10. All public health stakeholders are encouraged to visit the website.

EPHPP and health-evidence.ca (HE) are two separate but related projects. EPHPP actually completes reviews whereas www.health-evidence.ca finds reviews in the literature, rates their methodological quality and develops summary statements of them. All of the EPHPP reviews are included in the database that HE has developed. EPHPP and HE work together to provide summary statements of reviews. Each year EPHPP develops summary statements of a few of the recent reviews found by HE and PHRED has committed to 10 in 2005.

ETHICS IN PUBLIC HEALTH RESEARCH

An Ethics Working Group has been established and an inventory of existing resources and activities is underway. The PHRED Program has provided a forum for initial dialogue and exchange as a starting point on this important issue.

FRANCOPHONE HEALTH STATUS REPORT

Louise Picard presented on the Francophone Health Status Report at a national research forum in December in Ottawa and to the Deans of the Northern Ontario School of Medicine (NOSM) in January 2005 to be followed by a Sudbury NOSM Symposium presentation in May. Work is progressing well but the scope of project is much larger than originally thought and therefore the report will be released later in 2005. This provides a good example of a useful link between research and education.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Regular updates regarding funding opportunities are sent to all health units through the alpha Listserve.

HEALTH SERVICES RESEARCH ADVANCEMENT AWARD

The provincial PHRED Program has been nominated for the Health Services Research Advancement Award by Dr. Larry Chambers. This award is aimed at any individual, team or organization that has contributed significantly to the advancement of the health services research community in Canada.

MCYS BEST START 18-MONTH SCREENING

The Ministry of Children and Youth Services (MCYS) is undertaking the development of a universal developmental screening for children at 18 months of age. The project goal is to develop a process for identifying and describing the developmental status of each 18 month old in Ontario as the first steps in ensuring that families are aware of appropriate community services and referred as appropriate. There are four subcommittees working on aspects of this initiative. Helen Brown (MOHLTC) and Dr. Susan Snelling (Sudbury) are on the Reporting, Knowledge Transfer and Outcome Evaluation group. It was agreed that it would be valuable to have PHRED presence on this group to: 1) bring a public health perspective; 2) provide some info on public health initiatives, e.g. ISCIS, iPHis, other ways that public health is already gathering and reporting to the Ministry on health issues at the individual/family level; and 3) provide some evaluation expertise. The group is meeting bi-weekly by teleconference. A consensus-building workshop is planned for June in Toronto. At that time sub-committees will present their recommendations to a broad consultation group and a final report to MCYS is set for October 2005.

NURSING AND HEALTH OUTCOMES PROJECT – EXPERT PANEL FOR MENTAL HEALTH, PRIMARY CARE AND PUBLIC HEALTH

Dr. Dot Pringle, University of Toronto, leads this MOHLTC, Integrated Policy and Planning Division project. The goal is to identify health outcomes for public health (primarily clinical and one-on-one interventions). PHRED representatives (Dr. Donna Ciliska and Louise Picard) on this panel are focusing on public health and a working document on pertinent public health outcomes has been developed using EPHPP reviews.

PRENATAL/POSTNATAL NP EVALUATION

A PHRED evaluation team led by Dr. Susan Snelling from Sudbury PHRED is carrying out the provincial evaluation of the Prenatal and Postnatal Nurse Practitioner program, with a team from other PHRED sites. This program provides primary health care and preventive care to mothers and their children who have not been able to access prenatal and postnatal care. An interim evaluation report was submitted to the Ministry of Children and Youth Services (MCYS) in April 2005. The evaluation demonstrated that the programs, in 9 health units across the province, are providing services to approximately 3000 high risk and under-serviced clients. The clients, most of whom have no family doctor, are receiving prenatal and postnatal care, care for health concerns, immunizations and developmental check-ups for infants and children. The programs have worked very closely with Healthy Babies Healthy Children programs and other community agencies, ensuring a seamless range of services and supports for children and families. The MCYS is eagerly awaiting the results of this interim evaluation report, in order to make decisions about ongoing support for the program past the scheduled funding end in 2006. The PHRED Program will submit a final report in December 2006.

RAPID RISK FACTOR SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM (RRFSS) EVALUATION

PHRED representatives led by Dr. Kate O'Connor (Kingston) are working with the RRFSS Evaluation Working Group to evaluate RRFSS. An evaluation framework is being developed. PHRED will attend

a RRFSS Workshop in June and will present an outline of the evaluation and facilitate a data-gathering session.

PHRED provided input into a RRFSS Briefing Note to MOHLTC to assist in making decisions on potential provincial funding of the program.

An article was recently published in the *Canadian Journal of Public Health* (March-April 2005 issue) on the initial evaluation of RRFSS. Bingle, C.L., Holowaty, P.H., Koren, I., Picard, L., Stewart, P.J. & Feltis, S.L. An evaluation of the Ontario Rapid Risk Factor Surveillance System.

SKILLS ENHANCEMENT FOR HEALTH SURVEILLANCE

The PHRED Program continues to be actively involved in Health Canada's Skills Enhancement Project, including the review of modules and evaluation of the program. The outcome of the proposal submitted to Health Canada is pending. This proposal focuses on interprofessional education and uses the skills enhancement project as an example to examine the barriers and facilitators to its uptake across public health disciplines.

2. EDUCATION

An inventory of 2004 placements and contacts with post-secondary students across the five PHRED sites was collated and submitted to the Ministry as part of the annual PHRED Deliverables Report. In total 870 placements were provided and 18,615 students contacts were made through classes and tutorials by the 5 PHRED Program sites.

PHRED Program sites continue linkages with over 12 academic institutions and are actively engaged in teaching, curriculum development/renewal and research with academic partners. PHRED sites continue to work with their academic partners to promote relevant student placements and curricula grounded in public health theory and practice.

PHRED CONNECTION

There are currently nine health units working together through the PHRED Connection. There has been increased interest in PHRED Connection from other Health Units as a result of the link on the PHRED website. PHRED Connection is reviewing the New Preceptor Resource Kit produced by RNAO.

3. LEADERSHIP AND PARTNERSHIPS

CHRONIC DISEASE PREVENTION ALLIANCE (CDPA)

PHRED is exploring an affiliation with the CDPA. Helen Thomas (Hamilton) currently sits on the federal equivalent and is willing to represent PHRED on the provincial committee. PHRED representation on this committee would be helpful in disseminating EPHPP reviews and would have an impact on program and policy development.

E-HEALTH COUNCIL FOR PUBLIC HEALTH

Dr. Ruta Valaitis (PHRED) is a member of the E-Health Council for Public Health, which offers PHRED an opportunity for updates and input.

ONTARIO PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION (OPHA)

In their role as the Program Committee for the 55th OPHA Conference, the PHRED Program submitted the committee's final report. In 2005, PHRED Programs will support the OPHA's conference program but not in a leadership role as in 2004.

The PHRED Programs wish to continue to offer a \$1000 award to an undergraduate or graduate student at the upcoming OPHA/aIPHa conference. It is hoped that this award will encourage applicants to engage in public health and form linkages with OPHA.

ONTARIO STROKE STRATEGY – HEALTH PROMOTION SUB-COMMITTEE

PHRED received an invitation to participate as a member of the Health Promotion Sub-Committee for the Ontario Stroke Strategy. A PHRED representative attended the first meeting on April 12, 2005.

PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT

The PHRED Operations Committee has had discussions with the Ministry regarding potential PHRED involvement with the 2005 performance indicators questionnaire in areas such as the appropriateness of measures, content validity, links with available evidence, etc. and are awaiting future developments. Dr. Basrur had indicated that PHRED could potentially play a primary role in the performance measurement initiative and that the MOHLTC would like to build on PHRED's previous document regarding Accountability for Boards of Health.

PUBLIC HEALTH GOALS FOR CANADA – CONSULTATIONS

This Federal-Provincial-Territorial initiative is aimed at improving the health status of Canadians by working toward common public health goals and targets. A series of roundtable meetings are planned in each province. Other activities and events are designed to engage interested Canadians, advocacy groups, associations, public health stakeholders etc. in helping to define pan-Canadian public health goals. Individuals and or/groups can provide feedback online at www.healthycanadians.ca. The deadline for providing feedback is September 15, 2005. These goals will provide a framework for each jurisdiction to establish targets that reflect their specific priorities. PHRED members are encouraged to provide input.

TOBACCO STRATEGY INITIATIVES

The PHRED Operations Committee submitted a letter to Harriet Robbins regarding PHRED support/capacity for tobacco initiatives. The PHRED Programs were invited by the Ontario Tobacco Strategy Initiative to an evaluation meeting. The meeting is to be rescheduled once funding for this initiative is confirmed.

Submitted on behalf of the PHRED Programs,



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