

The Ontario Association of Public Health Nursing Leaders

Leading the Way for Public Health Nursing

Happenings of OPHNL – Issue #3, 2019

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I am pleased to provide an update on the progress OPHNL has made on our strategic priorities to-date:



Relationships:

OPHNL has also been active in the advocacy front and sent a letter to Christine Elliott, Minister of Health. In this letter, we outlined that the reduction of public health units from 35 to 10 regional entities will cause major disruptions in every facet of the system and result in substantial reductions in frontline public health services. We would like to thank our members in providing input on the advocacy letter that was recently developed and it can be found on OPHNL's public site at the following: <https://ophnl.org/member-resources/advocacy-letters-position-papers/>

The Chief Nursing Officer Forum was held in June 2019. The objectives of this forum were as follows:

1. Knowledge exchange opportunities of public health nursing practices that encourage further collaboration across the sector;
2. A supportive environment for sharing CNO leadership ideas and views from across the province; and
3. Reflection and critical dialogue on leading transitions related to Ontario health system transformation.

The nursing leaders engaged in a panel dialogue on systems transformation, through which best practices and ideas were exchanged on how to strategize and plan for ensuring that our voice is heard in redesign of the public health system. An important outcome resulting from the forum was the plan to develop a report with recommendations to be shared with the Ministry and stakeholders on the potential roles and functions of public health nurses and nursing leaders.

OPHNL also supported the Community Health Nurses of Canada's new initiative to design a PHN post-graduate certificate program. We provided our letter of support to this important work and will engage in providing feedback on the design of this new pan-Canadian program.





Systems Levels Impact:

As you are aware, the government aims to establish 10 regional public health entities and new regional boards of health with a common governance model by 2020-21.

The OPHNL executive is working with the Chief Nursing Officers Network to draft a report of key recommendations regarding the role and function of public health nurses and public health nursing leadership in the modernized health system. It is intended that this report will inform the feedback which will be provided to the Ministry of Health during various consultative processes across the province as part of the transformation of Public Health. Additionally, this document will assist in informing other key stakeholders in the health system of our perspectives on the future roles and directions for public health nursing. A survey was circulated to members to solicit your input. In the near future, once the draft report of recommendations is compiled, these will be distributed back out to the OPHNL members to help identify any gaps. Stay tuned for more details!

I am pleased to announce that we will be holding an in-person Community of Practice meeting on November 21 in the morning and our AGM will be held in the afternoon. Our meetings will be held at the Ontario Heritage Centre in Toronto. Stakeholders from the Ministry of Health, Dr. David Williams, Chief Medical Officer of Health and Dr. Michelle Acorn, Provincial Chief Nursing Officer will present remarks and participate in a panel discussion at the start of the AGM. Please hold the date in your calendar and registration details will be provided shortly.



Foster a Highly Competent and Innovative Workforce:

The Highly Competent Workforce workgroup had a very successful launch of its Community of Practice. A first webinar on "Leading Transformation in Public Health" was held at the end of June. A second webinar is planned for September 18th from 10 am to 11 am. Registration link is as follows: <http://ophnl.wildapricot.org/events>.

The focus of the webinars is to discuss how to lead in the complex adaptive times we're facing. Led by certified executive coach and facilitator Ellen Melis, the webinars are your space for learning, sharing and connection.



To continue the sharing and learning between the two webinars, we would like to invite you to participate in the online Community of Practice forum.

The purpose the online community of practice is to:

- 1) Formally connect nursing leaders;
- 2) Provide a space for nursing leaders to learn from each other by sharing information, stories, and personal experiences; and
- 3) Enable dialogue between nursing leaders to discuss issues, solve challenging problems, and collaborate.

If you would like to be part of the discussion, please send an email to Jennifer.mitton@hamilton.ca.



Marketing and Memberships

We have moved to a different plan from developing a stand-alone video on public health nursing to a dynamic approach to engage our members and public health nurses in your health units to use social media to reach out to the public and key stakeholders on the value and impact of public health nursing in our communities. We would like to thank members who have stepped forward to participate in helping us design a social media campaign to demonstrate the value of public health nurses and their significant contribution to the health care system and to the well-being of Ontarians. Our aim is to have messages ready for distribution through our social media channels by fall of 2019. We would like your support in engaging nurses in your health units to participate in the campaign and to reach out to your stakeholders, nursing colleagues and health professionals outside our sector to educate on the impact of the work of public health nursing.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude for your support and leadership. We have worked as a unified association to ensure that our collective voice is being heard on important issues ranging from public health modernization to RN prescribing. OPHNL members are having a positive impact working collectively regionally, in our workgroups and on our executive and with stakeholders across the province. Thank you to the entire executive and our members for your contributions in helping shape and propel our association forward in these changing times!

Sincerely,

Hamida Bhimani, OPHNL President (hamida.bhimani@york.ca)



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