

Dementia Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: Thursday March 27, 2025

Time: 10:30pm

Present: **Janine Reimer** (Alzheimer’s Society), **Jennifer Miller** (BBNOHT), **Janice Kucharew** (PWLE), **Patrick Quinn** (Community Paramedics), **David Wallis** (Alzheimer’s Society), **Joanne Osborne** (Dementia Care Team 6-Nations), **Logan Plumstead** (RPN Day and Stay), **Michelle Lewis** (Alzheimer’s Society), **Alexandra George** (GRCHC), **Sofina D’Souza** (Ontario Health at Home), **Bill Nolan** (Norview Lodge LTC)

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| Item | Agenda | **Lead**  |
| 1.0  | Welcome and Agenda ReviewApproval of minutes  |  |
| 2.0  | OHT Update Projects* Frailty Screener
* A common frailty screener for older adults is being piloted at various sites (BGH, NGH, VON, NFHT, GRCHC).The earlier frailty is identified, the sooner the patient can be put on the best care pathway and in some cases frailty can be reversed with the right interventions.
* Following the pilot there will be an evaluation to measure if there has been a meaningful outcome.
* The Rockwood frailty screener has been chosen.
* Questions were raised about engaging other community partners, such as the Alzheimer’s Society, and where the data will be stored and shared. These questions will be answered during the pilot, and a small trial can be conducted if desired.
* Geriatric Home Visits
* A home visiting geriatric assessment team through GRCHC is assessing frail elderly adults and conducting comprehensive geriatric assessments in homes. The team includes a care of the elderly doctor, a registered nurse (RN), and an occupational therapist (OT).
* Efforts are being made to build sustainability and collaborative links with community partners to provide all-encompassing care, prevent alternate level of care (ALC) at hospitals, and change care trajectories. Referrals are pulled from patients who cannot make it into office and some from hospitals, with specific criteria for these patients.
 | **Jennifer**  |
| 3.0  | Committee Member Updates PWLE * Janice recently attended workshops hosted by the Ontario Caregiver organization that focused on how caregivers share their story and aimed to support caregivers in sharing lived experience in a way that leads to change the system/fill in the gaps.
* Many attendees were caregivers who have cared for people with dementia and I was very impactful.

***Action: Janice send contact links for webinars*** Day and Stay * Logan reported The Day and Stay program is going really well and is very busy, with 16 new admissions this month. The program has had an RPN role for over a year now and is moving towards a more medical model, which is offering more support for the community.

Alzheimer’s Society* David reported that he recently visited the bio-adapted interface lab at Laurier, a research lab for active aging. The lab focuses on engaging older adults with virtual reality, which benefits fitness and mental health. rami4410@mylaurier.ca is the email for the research assistant.
* The Alzheimer’s Society has finished its program guide, available in hard copy and online. In April, there will be an in-person dementia education series about early-stage dementia, starting on April 17 in Brantford. There is also the IG Wealth Walk for Alzheimer’s fundraiser on May 10-12 at Mohawk College.
* **A** research grant of up to $25,000 is open for the next round. Interested parties should check the call or check the Alzheimer’s Society website for more details.
* Efforts are being made to be more intentional about concurrent programming.
* Year end dream team stats: 498 in ED, 337 diverted. Success continues to grow.
* Janine will be inviting Kim Meier to talk about connect my health and collaborating with Dan about vulnerable persons registry

6 Nations Dementia Care Team* Upcoming events for elders including one this Friday to honor elders, an "Afternoon to Remember" on April 16th, and monthly painting events. The office is moving to a bigger space, and care plans are being updated for accreditation.

GRCHC* **Alexandra reported t**he senior assessment service has a wait time of about 8 months for new patients, with urgent cases prioritized within a month. A proposal to the OHT is being worked on to get more funding for the service to meet growing demand.

Ontario Health at Home * Sofina talked about the transitional care bed program that supports patients coming out of the hospital with no discharge destination and needing a place to stay before a long-term solution is found. The program in West Haldimand has been relocated to Anson Place.

Community Paramedicine * **Community Paramedics are offering** more in-home services for patients unable to get out of the home, including blood draws, in-home medication, and remote patient monitoring, including WanderGuard pendants. These services are free for residents of Norfolk County. There is a partnership with Toronto Grace Hospital to offer wander guard pendants free of charge.
* If you have a patient from Norfolk who could use a WanderGuard pendant, feel free to call Norfolk County Community Paramedics Main Line - 519-429-9265.
 | **All** |
| 4.0 | Workplan discussion* Looking for any thoughts/ideas for new fiscal year projects. This can be ongoing discussion.
* More help for caregivers is needed, as highlighted in the workshops Janice attended. Caregiver burnout is a significant issue.
* Education for caregivers and helping them access available services.
* Discussed reducing stigma and getting help with behavioral support before things reach crisis mode.  Sometimes the name "Alzheimer’s Society" can be a deterrent, and bringing services under the OHT banner might attract more people.
* Janice talked about peer support being helpful in her experience as a caregiver. Peer and volunteer-led support groups waned during COVID but might be time to bring them back.
* Increasing funding for respite programs was suggested. Regular respite programs have a base funding amount that does not get increased often. Advocacy for more funding is ongoing.
* Discussion around advocating for reallocation of LTC respite room funding to community respite. Was discontinued and the funds have not been reallocated.

***Action: Jennifer and Janine to talk offline about respite funding advocacy***  | **Jennifer**  |
| 7.0  | Closing/Additional Items * Next meeting: May 15, 2025
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