

## **BRIEFING NOTE FOR AACHHR AND GOVERNMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEES**

**Subject:** Progress Report on **the** Collaborative Learning Environment for Health Professionals (CLE)

### **Background:**

The Collaborative Learning Environment for Health Professionals (CLE) is a skills-building initiative developed by the Atlantic Advisory Committee on Health Human Resources (AACHHR), and funded by Health Canada through the “Health Care Policy Contribution Program” until March 31, 2012.

The objective of the CLE is to assess methodologies for enhancing clinicians’ competencies to support the inter-professional delivery of care.

Current Sites include:

- Two (2) programs at St. Martha’s Hospital, a facility of the Guysborough Antigonish Straight Health Authority (GASHA) in Antigonish, Nova Scotia [http://www.erhb.ns.ca/Services/St\\_Martha/](http://www.erhb.ns.ca/Services/St_Martha/). At this site the CLE is partnered with
- CLE is partnered with the Advisory Committee for the Healthy Baby and Me program in Miramichi, NB; Committee members are drawn from the community and represent various professions and areas of expertise. They work together to direct and guide the delivery of a program to people living in the geographic area.
- The James Paton Memorial Regional Health Centre, Gander NL is a new site. This site is an inpatient obstetrical unit. Currently, the site is undergoing a change in model of nursing care, and is being challenged with a number of different changes, both administratively and clinically. They perceive that the CLE project will bring added value in the area of interprofessional learning and practice and help identify and support IP in the new model of care and plans for its implementation.
- CLE is working with the facilitators of province-wide program of the Victorian Order of Nurses (VON) New Brunswick are a group of independent individuals who have the same job description and work in eleven separate locations, with and for people who live in a number of geographic areas.

### **Activities Status:**

Since April 1, 2011, the project team has interacted with participants and decision-makers at the sites at St. Martha’s Hospital in Antigonish, Nova Scotia; the Advisory Committee of the Healthy Baby and Me Program in Miramichi, NB; and the VON NB facilitators. In July and August, project staff engaged the Miramichi participants on their particular skills gaps related to conflict resolution. With regard to the VON program facilitators, and in anticipation of a Fall 2011 training session, CLE project staff worked to identify resources to support self-directed learning approaches related to environmental scanning, and networking/negotiation skills.

The Spring 2011 withdrawal from the CLE project (due to capacity issues) of the Captain William Jackman Memorial in Labrador City West, triggered a number of interventions and meetings for CLE staff with organizations and senior officials in Newfoundland and Labrador. In September 2011 the James Paton Memorial Regional Health Centre in Gander agreed to sponsor a CLE site. The CLE project staff developed an application seeking ethics approval for CLE work. At the same time, and based on earlier skills research done the Central Health Service Area, CLE has facilitated interaction between the RHC and the CREW team.

Various activities are in progress at the different sites:

- From the June 2011 a needs assessment of the VON NB provincial facilitators group, three skills gaps were identified: environmental scanning, conflict management and networking/negotiation skills. Educational programming is being delivered via self-directed learning; two syntheses of literature have been distributed to each of the participants, one related to environmental scanning and the other to conflict resolution. In addition each participant has received tasks which involve their considering and applying the elements of the syntheses. The tasks will be discussed in a classroom session in November. This will be followed up in December 2011/Jan 2012 to evaluate the effect of this training.
- A follow-up activity on Stress Management for the Advisory Committee Healthy Baby and Me Program Miramichi will be delivered in early December. Learning programs regarding conflict management were designed during September. Due to scheduling difficulties for the members of the Advisory Committee, these programs are being modified for dissemination online.
- During the Fall/Winter, at the site in Antigonish, Nova Scotia, the CLE team will support the collaborative review of clinical and administrative policies to address barriers to team-based delivery of care. This activity will roll out during Q 3 and Q4.
- In Newfoundland and Labrador Building on the lessons learned at the NS site, CLE Project staff and some of the NL team members agreed that CREW training would be delivered at the NL site. Additionally education to assist the development of new models of care will be offered.

In August 2011, the CLE Team created an RFP to develop a video highlighting the learning and experiences of the staff at the four sites. The target audiences for the video are administrative decision-makers in health settings, government officials and staff of professional associations and regulatory bodies. The videos (in French and English) will focus on staff skills development via the tools and sessions designed, identified and delivered through the initiative.

Evaluation of CLE will be the major focus of effort in Q4.