

Behaviour Supports gets Government Funds

Funds will increase Staffing and Support Education

In late August 2016, the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care provided the North Simcoe Muskoka LHIN with \$546,940 in new base funding for the expansion of the LHIN's existing Behaviour Supports Ontario (BSO) project.

The new funding is welcome news as it will provide additional supports for older adults living with cognitive impairment and responsive behaviours AND their caregivers. Funding will be used to add a Psychometrist and a Registered Nurse to the existing team. 4.6 full-time Personal Support Workers will also be added to increase the support available to NSM Long-Term Care Homes.

One-time BSO funding available in 2016/17 will be used to support education events for NSM health care providers, with a specific focus on the NSM Behaviour Support Service (BSS) team. In collaboration with the NSM Behaviour Service Implementation Steering Committee an education calendar was developed. The events, which will run from January to March 2017, include workshops on compassion fatigue, change management, and sexually responsive behaviours, to name a few.

Vera's Story

At the age of 86, Oro resident Vera, had been living with her son and his family for two years. Over time the family saw changes in her behaviour. "She used to be so patient with the grandkids," Martin says of his mother. "Now she gets so angry."

Vera was diagnosed with dementia through Barrie's Aging Well Clinic. She was seen by a geriatric psychiatrist who managed her medication, was linked with CCAC for personal support services and was connected with the Alzheimer Society's First Link program.

Vera declined CCAC supports refusing to allow them entry to her home and saying "I'm fine!". Continuing to display restlessness and anger, Vera was referred to the NSM BSS team's Community Mobile Support Team.

The team engaged Vera in activities that made her feel helpful and less angry. They taught Martin new ways to communicate with his mother. Through the work of the team, Vera agreed to attend an Adult Day Program and is now enjoying time with new friends. The collaborative approach to care has helped Vera and her family. Recently Vera and her family were able to decline a bed offer at a Long Term Care Facility because they have managed her behaviours. Instead, they are all choosing to keep Vera at home with her family.



Clinical Design

Document Release Provides Guidance for Planning

In March 2016, the NSM LHIN and Waypoint Centre for Mental Health Care, the lead agency for the NSM Specialized Geriatric Services (SGS) Program, established a Working Group to develop a final report and recommendations related to the clinical design of the new NSM SGS Program. The Clinical Design Report & Recommendations document is now complete and available on both the LHIN and Waypoint websites.

Seniors Services is a key area of focus within the LHIN's strategic priorities. It advances the goal to "Build Capacity and Enhance Coordination" as it begins to establish the infrastructure to improve care for seniors and older adults. This work is also significant for the NSM region as it is one of the first major projects related to system re-design and integration.

We would like to thank all the organizations and health service providers that supported the completion of the document. With the document now complete, the NSM SGS Program is beginning to implement the design.



Antipsychotic Project

Work Rolling out for LTCH Prescribers

Between February and March 2017, education events will be held for interested Long-Term Care Home prescribers (i.e. Physicians, Nurse Practitioners, Pharmacists) related to the appropriate use of antipsychotics among Long-Term Care Home residents. Based on the results of a needs assessment survey, an education calendar has been developed. A Project Lead is being recruited to lead the project

Promoting NSM Success

Abstracts Accepted

The NSM SGS Program submitted three abstracts to the 2017 Canadian Gerontological Nurses Association (CGNA) conference. The abstracts addressed program successes including regional planning, Complex Case Resolution and Behaviour Success Agents. All three abstracts were accepted for presentation!

Seniors Health Project Team: Key Messages & Successes

- The Clinical Design Report & Recommendations document is now available online. Design implementation is underway.
- Planning for the new BSO Funding is complete. Positions are being recruited and education plans are being implemented..
- The 2017-2020 workplan for the NSM SGS Program is under development

