

# Healthy Strides

## *Progress Bulletin on the Primary Health Care Project*

### **Primary Health Care Vision Statement:**

*Primary Health Care in Prince Edward Island will be provided through a coordinated, accessible, quality system which supports Islanders to achieve optimal health, prevent and manage chronic conditions and reduce over-reliance on bed based care. Safe, appropriate care delivered by primary health care providers will optimize the health status of Islanders and ensure an affordable, sustainable health care system now and for future Island generations.*

## Primary Health Care – A time of growth

In November of 2008, the report of the Corpus Sanchez (CSI) review of the Prince Edward Island Health System was released. This report outlined a series of recommendations that the Department of Health have subsequently incorporated into the Integrated Health System Project.

Primary Health Care is an essential part of the Integrated Health System Project. Primary Health Care addresses health issues through health promotion, protection, prevention, education, early intervention, chronic disease management and continuity of care.

A Steering Committee and various working groups are in place to oversee and implement Primary Health Care initiatives. The Project Manager for the Primary Health Care Project is Kathy Jones and the Sponsor is Deborah Bradley, Director of Primary Health Care.

The three major projects underway with the Primary Health Care project include the new Primary Health Care model, the Mental Health Services Strategy and Integrated Chronic Disease Prevention and Management.

The Primary Health Care model will see increased access to Primary Health Care services through Networks. More information on this model and Networks is on the next page of this newsletter.

The Mental Health Services Strategy (MHSS) will include a focus on services and supports which are person-centred and integrated. One direction of the MHSS is to develop service coordination improvements which are based on evidence and best practice. A working document to guide the implementation of the MHSS has been developed. It is called "The Path Forward: Prince Edward Island Mental Health Services Strategy." If you would like a copy, call Kathy Jones at 894-0247.

The Integrated Chronic Disease Prevention and Management work focuses on promoting good health, preventing chronic disease and managing chronic illness to achieve positive health outcomes. Three chronic diseases will be the initial focus of this work-COPD, diabetes and hypertension. Demonstration projects are currently being developed to test new approaches.

More information about all of these project areas will be featured in upcoming newsletters.



# New PHC model proposed

The Primary Health Care Service Delivery working group has been focusing on the enhancement of the Primary Health Care system for the province.

The proposed model would establish five Primary Health Care Networks: two in Prince County, two in Queens County and one in Kings County. The distribution of these Networks would ensure similar population sizes have equitable access to Primary Health Care services.

Each of the Networks may consist of the following: a part-time Medical Director working in collaboration with a Network Manager, Family Physicians, Nursing, other Health Professionals and Administrative Staff. An increase in Nurse Practitioners will also be seen.

The basket of Primary Care Services provided in the Networks will include chronic disease prevention and management, primary mental health, community-based addiction services, public health programs, targeted

screening programs and health prevention and promotion. These services will continue to be provincial programs.

A number of Centres will make up a Network. A typical Centre would have a group of Family Physicians working under a collaborative model where patients see the right person at the right time. Each Centre will operate with well-developed

Chronic Disease Prevention and Management protocols which maximize the scope of all professionals.

The new service delivery model is expected to contribute to enhanced health outcomes through: improved access for Islanders; more timely services; more holistic person-centered approach to care; increased prevention/promotion; better matching of patient needs to provide expertise; and improved patient and provider satisfaction.



This model is still in the planning stages and staff input will be sought as the process moves forward.

Watch for details on staff information sessions to be held soon. As well, ask your manager if you have questions.

Future newsletters will focus on this and other Primary Health Care Project initiatives.

## Primary Health Care Steering Committee

The Primary Health Care Steering Committee meets regularly and its purpose is to provide overall direction and support for the Primary Health Care projects. Members include:

Deborah Bradley– Sponsor  
Kathy Jones– Project Manager  
Dr. Richard Wedge  
Dr. Heather Morrison  
Dr. Alfred Morais  
Margaret Kennedy



Terry Campbell  
Mark Spidel  
Arlene Rose  
Johanne Irwin  
Patsy Barrett  
Heather Larkin  
Mary Arsenault