

COMMUNITY HEALTH INTEREST GROUP

Co-Chair: Shelley Sing RN BScN OHN(C) CIC

Co-Chair: Amanda Knapp BAsC CPHI(C) CIC

Secretary and Membership: Risa Cashmore RN BSc CIC CCHN(C)

Changes in Chair

We are pleased to announce that during our annual in-person meeting at the CHICA-Canada 2010 conference in Vancouver, Amanda Knapp, a Public Health Inspector/ Infection Control Practitioner from Kingston, Ontario accepted the position of co-chair. (The chair, Shelley Sing, was unable to attend the Vancouver conference, thus, this meeting was chaired by Risa Cashmore, secretary). On September 2nd, 2010, the co-chairs and secretary met by teleconference. Plans for future meetings and direction for this group was discussed at this time.

The co-chair position had been vacant for approximately a year and a half. The secretary and chair have been in their positions since the inception of this interest group at the CHICA-Canada Educational Conference in Edmonton, 2007.

Membership

The CHIG continues to grow with newer members coming from the area of public health. Our membership represents all provinces and territories except for Quebec, and Nova Scotia. The distribution list has 45 members from home care provider agencies, clinic settings, public health/health authorities, rehabilitation therapy, First Nations, hospitals, community services and infection control networks. Of note are some members who have retired and been replaced by colleagues in their work setting, but they continue their workplace's membership in this interest group.

Meetings

This interest group met three times during 2010: teleconferences March 22nd and October 4th and the in-person meeting May 31st at the CHICA-Canada Educational conference in June. Attendance at the meetings is 11-16 members (or member representatives).

Probably like other CHICA Interest Groups, struggles we face include poor attendance at both the face-to-face meetings at our yearly CHICA conferences and at our teleconferences. Time differences and heavy workload issues are often cited. We have attempted to update our Terms of Reference through our membership; however, there has been no input to either the Chair or Secretary when requested.

This group continues to correspond throughout the year by e-mail through the distribution list. Mailers included circulated questions and notification of guidelines and/or events or opportunities.

Highlights

The CHIG was asked to provide topics pertaining to the community at next year's CHICA Educational Conference 2011 in Toronto. Amanda Knapp sits on the Scientific Committee for this conference. Two sessions have been planned:

1. Cashmore, R and Lovatt, L. Are You Complying with Canadian and Provincial Regulations for the Packaging and Transportation of Clinical Specimens in the Community/Public Health Setting?
2. Garrahan, T. Correctional Service of Canada Tuberculosis Prevention and Control Program – Nursing Leadership and Community Collaboration.

Our webpage has been updated to include meeting minutes, numerous community healthcare links, and pictures of attendees at our annual in-person meeting at the CHICA-Canada Educational conference. Future plans include adding pictures of the executive and enhancing links to community resources.

Position Statement Under Development

Our focus again this year has been working on our first Position Statement, “*The Cleaning and Disinfection of Non-Critical Medical Equipment/Devices in Community Settings*”. We have held five teleconferences this past year (February 22nd, April 9th, May 3rd, August 23rd, and October 25th) to refine our draft and seek stakeholder review. Although we missed the deadline to submit our final draft to the CHICA Standards and Guidelines Committee by the October 15th 2010 deadline, it will be completed by Spring of 2011 and ready to present at the CHICA-Canada Educational Conference 2011 in Toronto.

Shelley Sing RN BScN OHN(C) CIC,, Chair

Risa Cashmore RN BSc CIC CCHN(C) , Secretary