

The Ontario Action Group to Prevent Work Disability

October 18, 2010

10:00 am – 12:00 Noon

Attendees:

Canadian Mental Health Association Office: Alice Dong, Karen McKenzie, Janet Kerr, Ann Morgan, Jane Gibson, Kim Sunderland

On-Line Participants: Terry O’Hearn, Diane Westcott, Nancy Gowan, Terry O’Hearn, Rob Smith, Yann Malara, Nathalie Dufresne-Meek

Facilitator: Terry O’Hearn

Minutes: Janet Kerr

Regrets: Kathy Jurgens

Updates:

- Rob Smith reported on project groups from the Ontario Summit. He sent out 2 reminders but did not get any updates. Of the 16 groups, so far, two are moving forward.
- **Action: Terry O’Hearn will contact Sandra and Amanda directly for an update on the “Business Case” group.**
- The WSIB “Psychological” group is working on a research project (as an employer) and it was acknowledged that this undertaking will likely take considerable time. The pilot project outcomes are important, and will be of value in identifying best practices for managing mental health in the workplace.
- The major goal for the next two years is to get the message out to all communities (Disabled Community, Employer Community, Medical Community, Insurance Community, Regulators, and Disability Management Community) up to the boardroom level.
- Alice commented and it was agreed that the communication strategy could and should run parallel to on-going projects.
- Ann reported that other 60 Summits leaders found that getting the projects going is challenging – they have found it is important to keep participants engaged and making sure that people have practical tasks to work on.

1. Sign Up for Project Groups and Organizational Teams (Terry O’Hearn) and

2. “Project Group Action Plan” (Nancy Gowan)

- The sign up list was reviewed – the 6 Communities identified
- Nancy walked the committee through a standardized approach to organizing communication plans for each stakeholder group: **Please see format attached**
- We will get in touch with established organizations that represent each stakeholder
- Each group will identify **10 ACTIONS – communication alone does not create change**

- Disabled Community and Advocates: Terry is sending out a letter to OFL to respond to “messaging issues” that were identified at the Summit.
- Nathalie suggested talking to the Injured Workers Support Network in Kingston (Linda)
- Jane Gibson identified the Institute for Work and Health website (their goal is to connect with the DM Community)
- **Action: It was agreed that this topic (Inst. Work and Health) will be added to the next agenda.**
- Yann Malara described his work with the Treasury Board Secretariat (Government Employees) and his interest in working with the Employer Community (his team is currently working on RTW tools such as handbooks, business case etc)
- It was suggested that a least one person from each group needs to be in communication with the steering committee (attend these meetings)
- **Please see sign-up list attached**

3. Press Release (Ann Morgan)

- **Action: A copy of the press release will go out to the group**
- We have a one year service subscription with CNW Group which we will use for the press release
- We will send the press release to free newsletters – such as VRA
- Ann has also followed up with Benefits Canada; Melanie Morrow will also be contacted
- Committee members can forward it to other publications/newsletters as we will all get a copy
- Ann will send PR package to Donna Hardaker

4. IFDM – Dame Carol Black (Nancy Gowan)

- Nancy reported on the International Forum on Disability Management <http://www.ifdm2010.com/index.html>
- There were participants from 35 countries – with wide recognition that work and health is connected, stay at work is part of recovery and it is a misconception that people need to be 100% fit in order to work. Canada is quite far ahead in our recognition of these ideas.
- Nancy said she would share presentation slide show (Dame Carol Black), but that without further permission, due to copyright, we are asked not to share it beyond the group.
- Highlights from Dame Carol Black, National Director of Health and Work, England – “Fit Notes” instead of “Sick Notes”, national guidelines for how to fill them out, “advise phone line” for occupational health
- Nancy mentioned in the medical community rheumatologists are unique as their focus/philosophical approach tends to be how to live with a chronic condition rather than seek a cure.
- The committee discussed having Dame Black come to Ontario (as an opportunity to get all of our stakeholders together to hear her message) She is willing to come (as per Nancy) Some of her key messages are... positive link between work and health, change does not happen overnight – look at and change the barriers keeping people from work (e.g. sick note) , early support

- <http://www.dwp.gov.uk/health-work-and-well-being/>
5. 60 Summits Admin Support and Forum (Terry O’Hearn)
 - The committee agreed to pay for 60 Summits admin support and reevaluate in 3 months. It is \$500 per month or \$6000.00 per year. They will maintain a robust email database, and develop and maintain a more robust website.
 6. Fund Raising (Terry O’Hearn)
 - There was a general discussion as to the need to consider fund raising --- what we will need in the next 3 to 6 months
 - It was thought having Dame Black speak might be a fund raising opportunity (charge a registration fee)
 - Trillium might fund some support
 - **Action: Future item on Agenda**
 7. Communications Team
 - We need a person to take the role of maintaining our communication materials, someone to put us on social media websites - Facebook, Twitter etc.
 - Australia has a piece on YouTube
 - **Action: Future item on Agenda**
 8. Recruiting More Members
 - Go to organizations that have a mandate to get the word out
 - PGG – Ann Morgan
 - CLHIA and VRA – Ann Morgan
 - OMA – Occupational Health Physicians – meeting is next September – find a way to participate – or add on to conference
 - Submit offers to present to various associations
 - Wisconsin has a non-profit presenting group that speaks with small and large groups.
 9. NEXT MEETING
 - Monday, November 15th, 2010 – 10:00 to 12:00,
 - Terry will confirm with Kathy if CMHA location is available again
 - Please reach out to people you would like on your specific Action Group – we will continue to talk about the Communication Plan Template next meeting.