



# MS Society Government Relations Workshop

Presentation on LHIN #9  
Central East Alzheimer Societies  
April 29, 2007

*Alzheimer Society*



# Today's Objectives.

- Introduction of the Societies
- Role of Alzheimer Societies in Central East – & Local Health Integrated Network - #9.
- Our understanding of the LHIN
- Current roles and relationships
- Application for your Society



# Who We Are

- Alzheimer Chapters in Central East LHIN:
  - Peterborough, Haliburton, Northumberland
  - Kawartha Lakes (formerly Victoria County)
  - Durham Region
  - Toronto (City of Scarborough)
- Independently incorporated, governed by Volunteer Boards of Directors – 39 across Ontario
- Members of Alzheimer Society of Ontario and Alzheimer Society of Canada



# LHIN Challenge: Our Understanding

- **Achieve Local Health Integration through:**
  - Community Engagement – local style
  - Integrated Health Service Plans (IHSP)
  - Promoting coordination opportunities
  - Exercising authority in funding and accountability
- Distinct across the province



# Alzheimer Disease and Related Dementia(ADRD)

- ADRD is a progressive disease.
- The average time from diagnosis to death is 12 years: in that time, many health services are utilized.
- Over 18,000 people in LHIN #9 with ADRD: this number is expected to triple in the next 20 years.
- Relative to the province LHIN#9 has a higher population of seniors.

(Dementia Projections for the Counties, Regional Municipalities, and Districts of Ontario, RW Hopkins and JF Hopkins, 2005)



# Economic Costs of Dementia

- \$2 billion per year is spent on ADRD in Ontario
- The annual cost of care \* per individual with Alzheimer Disease is estimated to range from \$ 9,500 for early stage to \$36,800 for late stage:

\*Based on use of nursing home care, use of medications, use of community support services by caregivers, and unpaid caregiver time.

(Source: Alzheimer Society of Canada website  
[www.alzheimer.ca/english/disease/stats-cost.htm](http://www.alzheimer.ca/english/disease/stats-cost.htm))



# What We Do-Our Services

- Counselling (supportive and/or therapeutic) for family caregivers and individuals with the diseases.
- Support Groups for families and clients in early-stage
- Help clients navigate through the broader healthcare system
- Dementia-specific training for health care professionals and paraprofessionals
- Public Education for Alzheimer's disease and related dementias (ADRD)
- Resource Libraries for formal and informal caregivers, and individuals with the diseases.
- Key Resource on dementia care for community networks/committees



# How We Work

- Based on community needs
- Client-centered approach
- Enhancing quality of life
- Leaders in best practices and Alzheimer Knowledge Exchange
- Working partnerships to improve care



# Partnerships to Improve Care

- Local service providers for rural outreach
- Community colleges, universities and adult education centres
- Front line healthcare professionals in long-term care and community support services
- Dementia Networks – 3 local in LHIN #9 – Toronto (Scarborough); Durham Region and HKPR
- Dementia Network of Central East – reps from 3



# Key Issues in Dementia Care

- Community capacity to respond to an ever growing demand for services, including under 65 age group
- Increase education and support for formal and informal caregivers
- Wait times for diagnosis and treatment
- Need for consistent education and training standards for professionals
- Access to physicians competent in the care of people with dementia
- Social stigma surrounding dementia that results in depression, isolation and denial of symptoms and failure to seek care



# Moving Forward

- Build and expand on existing educational and support programs
- Expand First Link™ referral program as early intervention to minimize crises as disease progresses
- Recommend enhanced funding for assessment and management of dementia e.g. Memory Clinics
- Expand partnerships to improve care by working with emerging groups such as Family Health Teams (FHT)
- Increase accessibility for isolated areas and groups within our region



# Alzheimer Societies and Health Integration Planning

- Needs Identification and Gap Analysis\*
- Service planning and integration along the continuum of care\*\*
- Access to healthcare consumers
- Access to service provider networks
- Knowledge of the communities and assistance with planning focus groups
- Leverage of regional, provincial, national and international best practices in dementia care
- Provision of demographics and service reach



# Community Engagement CE LHIN

- At the heart of community engagement is the democratic ideal that people who are impacted by a decision or course of action, have the rightful opportunity to shape and form the decision or action before it takes place..



## CE - LHIN

- Through community engagement and consultation, LHIN-wide Health Interest Networks have been established for three of the Central East LHIN's priorities for change. These "expert tables" are each at various stages of development:
  - Seamless Care for Seniors Network
  - Addictions and Mental Health Network
  - Chronic Disease Prevention and Management Network\*



# Where is MS Society to Start?

- Community discernment
  - What is important to you as communities?
  - What issues need urgent attention?
  - Who are the people who will help address the issues? The most directly affected!



# First Principles

- Criteria for LHIN choice of issues
  - Does the issue affect a significant number of people?
  - Is the community concerned about it?
  - Does the issue have a system impact?
  - Is there local readiness to change?



# What have we done so far?

- Planning
- Innovation
- Partnerships



# What needs to be done?

- Challenges
- Obstacles in our path
- LHIN Contribution



# What Now?

You have a strong Society.

- Gather your data, emphasize the needs of those affected by MS and their caregivers.
- Celebrate your achievements.
- Name challenges
- Offer your expertise to the LHIN planners!
- Work with your partners.



# Take the Lead

- Be a **resource for needs identification and health planning** regarding the prevention and management of MS and its related issues in your LHIN area;
- **Provide advice** to the LHIN on the strategic priorities, goals and objectives/strategies needed to improve the system of care for people with/at risk of developing this chronic disease and their caregivers;
- To be a **forum** for communication, collaboration, knowledge exchange and innovation amongst stakeholders towards disease research, prevention and management.



# Thank you

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Also Alzheimer Society of Ontario through  
[www.alzheimer.ca](http://www.alzheimer.ca)

To access local Chapters in your communities

- <http://www.health.gov.on.ca/>
- Go to Local Health Integration Networks