

Canadian Research Network for Care in the Community e-Newsletter # 2: June/July 2005

ABOUT CRNCC

CRNCC aims to promote new knowledge and transfer knowledge about community care within the broader continuum of health and social care.

With the help of its members, CRNCC aims to:

- Build a research agenda focusing on community care costs and outcomes
- Communicate research findings
- Connect community partners with ongoing research projects
- Advise on community research
- Find sites for research
- Assist with the analysis of research findings
- Communicate knowledge widely to the field

CRNCC MEMBERS

CRNCC membership is voluntary and free-of-charge. Over 100 individuals and organizations have now joined CRNCC including charitable foundations, community service agencies, Community Care Access Centres (CCACs), consumer organizations, planning bodies, government agencies, hospitals, long-term care facilities and educational institutions. We continue to invite new members.

RECENT RESEARCH AND REPORTS

Prescriptions for Pediatric Home Care. Paul Williams, Karen Spalding, Raisa Deber and Patricia McKeever recently released the findings of their study of home care for children and families in Ontario. This study, funded by the Hospital for Sick Kids Foundation, examined CCAC responses to steadily growing needs for pediatric home care between 1997 and 2002. Key findings are that access to services varied substantially across the province; the gap between children's needs and available services widened; managed competition had mostly negative outcomes including higher service and administrative costs; and available resources were increasingly concentrated on professional health care services (such as rehabilitation) rather than social support (e.g., homemaking). The full report is available at http://www.cyhn.ca/PDFdocs/Prescriptions_PHC.pdf

When Home is Community: Community Support Services and the Well-Being of Seniors in Supportive and Social Housing by Janet Lum, Simmone Ruff and Paul Williams presents recent research on supportive housing. This research, funded by the United Way of Greater Toronto, shows that in spite of multiple health and social risks, seniors in supportive housing maintain their independence while using relatively inexpensive support services and avoiding expensive emergency services such as 911. Community research partners include Neighbourhood

Link-Senior Link, Etobicoke Services for Seniors, and St. Paul's L'Amoreaux Centre. The full report is available at

<http://www.senior-link.com/PDF/United%20Way%20Final%20Report.pdf>

Realizing the Potential of Home Care, Elinor Caplan's Report on Ontario's system of managed competition for home care, was recently released; it recommends that managed competition continue, although with some changes.

The full report is available at

http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/public/pub/ministry_reports/ccac_05/ccac_05.html

Those interested in understanding, or reliving, the complicated path of home care policy in Ontario over the past two decades will want to read *Almost Home? Reforming Home and Community Care in Ontario* by Pat Baranek, Raisa Deber and Paul Williams (University of Toronto Press, 2004). It is available in paperback, but your tax dollars also have made it available at the Toronto Public Library. This book analyzes the different approaches to funding and delivering home care of successive Conservative, Liberal, and NDP governments. One key conclusion is that governments had considerable freedom to do what they wanted (including implementation of the managed competition model) since they faced a relatively diffuse policy community, including hard-to-mobilize seniors, and multiple, sometimes competing provider agencies; this is in contrast to fields like primary care, where organized medicine has had a major influence over policy reform.

RESEARCH PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITY

For the last 4 years, The M-THAC (From Medicare To Home And Community) Research Unit at the University of Toronto (co-directed by Raisa Deber and Paul Williams) has worked to promote research on the extent and outcomes of the ongoing shift of care from hospitals to home and community. MTHAC now has a national network of academic researchers, students and community research partners. Among its various activities, MTHAC supports the CRNCC. For more details, you can visit the MTHAC website at <http://www2.m-thac.org/cgi-bin/WebObjects/mthac.woa>

Due to changes in national granting programs, MTHAC now needs to reinvent itself as a "Team Grant." Our Team will again include a mix of academic researchers, students and community research partners with research focused in two theme areas. Theme One will focus on changes to health human resources demand and supply linked to ongoing health system restructuring. Theme Two will focus specifically on community services, how they currently fit within the broader continuum of care, and what role they could play within a more integrated health and social care system.

At this point we would like to invite community organizations to join us as partners on our new research team. Partner organizations may choose to advise on a research agenda, participate in actual research, host research projects, help

Even though this e-mail is being sent through a university listserv, it goes without saying (and therefore they want us to say) that the views and contents of this message do not necessarily represent the thoughts and opinions of the University of Toronto.

to communicate research, and so on. If you would like more information please contact Brenda Gamble, project coordinator, by email at brenda.gamble@utoronto.ca or by telephone at 416 978-1406.

DO YOU HAVE KNOWLEDGE TO SHARE?

CRNCC aims to link people to knowledge about community care.

If you know about recent articles, presentations, or data which highlight the costs or outcomes of community care, or if you have information about upcoming meetings, events or conferences on community care, please tell us at crncc@utoronto.ca so that we can tell our members.

THE FINE PRINT

If you would like to be removed from this listserv, or know someone who would like to be added, please contact us at crncc@utoronto.ca