

A Centre of Excellence for Public Health Nursing

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Discussion Facilitators

- Audrey Danaher
- Joyce Fox
- Jane Underwood

Goals of this Session

- Background of this initiative
- Process for developing Discussion Paper
- Engage participants in a guided discussion to:
 - Confirm challenges facing public health nursing
 - Determine level of support for a Centre of Excellence
 - Identify other actions or opportunities to strengthen public health nursing

Background

- Beginning a dialogue:
 - Concern regarding the challenges facing public health nursing
 - How to best strengthen the voice of public health nursing
 - Ways to support communities through all domains of practice

Moving an Idea Forward

- Developing a framework to describe a Centre of Excellence
- Think Tank at CHNAC conference 2008
- Summarizing the ideas generated
- Submitting proposal to Office of Nursing Policy

The Issues

- Gaps in leadership and leadership opportunities
- Lack of role clarity
- Lack of structure to support capacity development in public health nursing practice

Developing Discussion Paper

- Purpose: Explore the merits of a Centre of Excellence in supporting and strengthening public health nursing
 - Present options for action
 - Analyze advantages and disadvantages
 - Identify impact on leadership; role clarity; and building capacity.

Steps in Developing Paper

- Advisory Committee
- Key Informant Interviews
- Relevant Literature
- Seeking feedback

What is a Centre of Excellence?

- Commitment to excellence and innovation:
- Clear mandate and purpose
- Knowledge development, translation, and exchange
- Formal structure and dedicated resources
- Strong partnerships

A Centre of Excellence for Public Health Nursing....

- A structure, physical or virtual, whose purpose is to support and strengthen innovation and practice in ... all domains and build capacity through core initiatives that include but are not limited to knowledge development; translation and transfer; leadership development; supporting communities of practice; and strengthening partnerships.

Advantages of a Centre of Excellence

- Commitment to excellence
- Establish a national voice and presence
- Specific mandate
- Access to resources
- Emphasis on knowledge development and dissemination
- Dedicated resources-long-term investment

Disadvantages

- Can be elitist
- May create another silo
- Unrealistic expectations
- Possible restrictions in carrying out mission
- Risk of loss of funding

Options to Consider

- Maintain the status quo
- Build capacity in an existing organization
- Establish an independent structure aligned with an existing organization

Possible Functions of a Centre

- Leadership development
- Access to resources and promising practices
- Coordination of research initiatives and networks (e.g. knowledge transfer)
- Support communities of practice
- Ensure involvement at decision making tables
- Policy development

Impact on Key Issues

- Leadership
 - Leadership development programs
 - Mentorship
 - Strategic planning
 - Forum for public health nursing leaders

Impact on Key Issues

- Role Clarity in Public Health Nursing
 - Establish strong partnerships
 - Advocate for organizational and systems change
 - Leverage work of other groups/organizations

Impact on Key Issues

- Building Capacity for Public Health Nursing
 - Developing and disseminating promising practices
 - Establishing communities of practice
 - Challenging limiting structures through policy development
 - Identifying key research questions

Recommendations

- Establish partnerships with key organizations
- National survey: level of grassroots support and feedback on structure and function
- National Think Tank as a basis for ...
- Business Plan to assess feasibility

Discussion



What do you think?

Discussion 1

Do the issues identified by key informants resonate with you?

What other issues need to be considered?

What is the most pressing issue in going forward?

What do you think?

Discussion 2

What are your thoughts on the idea of a Centre of Excellence that would build capacity in public health nursing?

What other strategies could be considered?

What do you think?

Discussion 3

What are the implications of not taking action?

Who should be involved in moving forward?

Members of Advisory Group

Lisa Ashley, RN CCHN(C),
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Next Steps....

- Planning with partners, including the Public Health Agency of Canada & Health Canada's Office of Nursing Policy, regarding the way forward.
- Deciding how best to promote health and work with stakeholders
- Synthesize findings and recommendations in a number of reports on community health/public health nursing