

Briefing Note for the Chiefs of Ontario Health Coordination Unit

Issue: Ontario Regional Addictions Partnership Committee (ORAPC) Update & Highlights
Date: January 21, 2014

Background:

The ORAPC consists of representatives appointed by the PTO's and Ontario Treatment Directors who work in or with the Ontario National Native Alcohol and Drug Abuse Program (NNADAP) as well as an Ex-Officio member from FNIHB. The ORAPC reports through the Health Coordination Unit.

The ORAPC's mandate is to facilitate communication and provide advice/guidance/recommendations to the Chiefs of Ontario office, Health Canada First Nations & Inuit Health Branch (FNIHB), NNADAP Community-based and Treatment Centre workers and PTO's on issues of addictions and holistic approaches to healing through ongoing processes of review, evaluation, and monitoring. The ORAPC will provide input on regional and national initiatives in the area of addiction programs and services as the implementation of the NNADAP Renewal Framework moves forward.

Rationale:

This briefing note was prepared to update the Health Coordination Unit on ORAPC activities and highlights in the current fiscal year. A year end briefing note will be submitted following the year end of March 31, 2014.

The ORAPC completed activities as outlined on the 2013/14 Work Plan. Highlights from the year include:

- Hosting the 2013 Ontario NNADAP Conference which offered between 18 – 24 hours of accredited training to 118 Ontario NNADAP Workers in the areas of Mental Health, Addictions, Culture and related topics
- Reviewing and selecting six (6) training proposals approved from the National Anti-Drug Strategy funding providing accredited training seats for a total of 118 NNADAP Workers on Mental Health and Addictions and related topics
- Maintaining the OntarioNNADAP.org website
- Distributing an electronic issue of the Ontario NNADAP Newsletter
- Maintaining the Ontario NNADAP Directory
- Approving and distributing the ORAPC Review 2008 – 2013
- Beginning research and development of a Pre-Treatment Readiness Tool Kit for Ontario NNADAP
- Data Gathering from Ontario NNADAP in areas such as Ontario NNADAP Best Practices, Program Needs, Wage and Salary Information, Education Levels, Certification Numbers and Retention Incentive experiences
- Representation on National Native Addictions Partnership Foundation (NNAPF) Board of Directors and TFNHSOC Mental Health and Addictions Working Group
- Advocating for NNADAP Worker Retention Incentive and Wage Parity for Ontario NNADAP workforce
- Development of “Ontario NNADAP Funding Issues and Retention Incentive Report”
- Development of “Retaining Ontario NNADAP Workers” information and distributed to leadership in Ontario as part of advocacy strategy
- Implementation discussions regarding standardized Ontario NNADAP Treatment Intake Form
- Promoting addiction counsellor certification status of Ontario NNADAP workers

- Communicating with Health Coordination Unit, Chiefs of Ontario, PTO Health Directors, NNAPF and NNADAP workers
- Attendance at All Ontario Chiefs Conference, June 2013 for communication and advocacy
- Gained support by way of AOCC Resolution for Ontario NNADAP Pay Equity Strategy in partnership with Treatment Directors Group

(Approved Minutes are available at www.OntarioNNADAP.org)

Priority issues identified by ORAPC

- 1. There continues to be a need for a renewed relationship and stronger communication between ORAPC and the Health Coordination Unit** – Identified during the ORAPC strategic planning session was the need for stronger advocacy efforts and communication with the Chiefs of Ontario and Health Coordination Unit in accordance with the ORAPC Terms of Reference.
- 2. Initial stages of development of an Ontario NNADAP Pay Equity Strategy has begun, championed by the ORAPC, Treatment Directors and supported by the Chiefs of Ontario** – Information collected from Ontario NNADAP Workers indicates Ontario NNADAP Workers receive considerably less than their mainstream counterparts and deal with high caseloads. Turnover rates of Ontario NNADAP Workers is high.
- 3. There continues to be a need for adequate operational and programming budgets for Ontario NNADAP** – see ORAPC Briefing Note to HCU July 2013
- 4. Advocacy continues for Certified community-based NNADAP Workers who are experiencing difficulty in receiving their retention incentives** – See attached Retaining Ontario NNADAP Workers publication

Current Status:

The ORAPC continues its work as outlined in the 2013/14 ORAPC Work Plan. A final report will be submitted to the Health Coordination Unit after the year end of March 31, 2014.

Next Steps:

1. Complete the 2013/14 ORAPC Work Plan activities.
2. Provide a final report to the Chiefs of Ontario Health Coordination Unit, PTO's and NNADAP workers regarding ORAPC Activities and Recommendations.

Prepared by: Autumn Johnson, ORAPC Coordinator, January 21, 2014

Attachments:

1. Ontario NNADAP Funding Issues and Worker Retention Incentives Report
2. Retaining Ontario NNADAP Workers Publication
3. Ontario NNADAP Newsletter

CC: Ontario NNADAP
Treatment Directors Group
Carol Hopkins, Executive Director, NNAPF