

**Department of Family Practice (Central Zone)**  
**Report to ZMAC**  
**May 2015**

***Submitted by Dr. Rick Gibson & Lynn Edwards***

In 2014-2015, the Department of Family Practice (Central Zone) continued to develop their four priority areas within the activity streams of Community Care, Hospital Care, Long Term Care, Quality & Evaluation, and Veterans Services. Highlights include:

- Accreditation Canada recognized **Care by Design**, our innovative model of care in long term care, as a leading practice. Care by Design is now working with Mental Health to improve care for mental illness in LTC. An evaluation of **Care by Design** was published in the Canadian Family Practice journal (March).
- **Dr. Ed Wagner**, Director Emeritus of the MacColl Center for Health Care Innovation at the Group Health Research Institute in Seattle, Washington and co-developer of the Chronic Care Model, presented at the DDFP Fall Dinner, following the PHC Chronic Disease Prevention & Management Symposium.
- The DFP-PHC **Annual Spring Forum** offers a variety of presentations and booths with valuable information and practice tools for primary health care providers. The May, 2014 **Family Physician Dinner Meeting** included a panel discussion on *Appropriate Testing* in Family Practice.
- Dr. Orlando Hung hosted an **Airway Management workshop** as a refresher for Family Physicians in hospital care and rural settings.
- **Community Health Teams** have also been recognized as a leading practice by Accreditation Canada, and are expanding to offer free health and wellness programs in four geographic areas within the central zone - Bedford/Sackville, Chebucto, Dartmouth and Halifax Peninsula. The new **Hants Health & Wellness Team** (HHWT) offers similar programming to citizens in the Hants area (Municipality of West Hants, Towns of Windsor and Hantsport, and the Uniacke Area). These teams work collaboratively with local family physicians, other health care providers, and community partners.
- PHC-DFP swept the **2015 Quality Awards** receiving GOLD for My Care My Voice, an Integrated Chronic Care Service (ICCS) initiative to reduce wait times to care for complex patients; SILVER for our work with Geriatrics in strengthening Primary Health Care for Frail Persons (the Frailty Portal) and BRONZE for Community Health and Wellness Centre – A Community-Driven Model of wellness programs, primary care service delivery, community partnerships and community outreach activities in the communities of North Preston, East Preston, Cherrybrook, and Lake Loon.
- Two Family Practice inpatient units at the QEII were renamed to better reflect the “home first” philosophy – the Community Health Unit (HI site) was renamed the **Hospitalist Medicine Unit** and the Transitional Care Unit (VG site) became the **Community Transitions Unit**.
- Units in the **Veterans Memorial Building** have started to accept a limited number of stable, sub-acute patients, as they are experiencing a decline in the number of eligible veterans.

- The “**Partnering with Patients and Families for Quality Improvement**” project, supported by the Canadian Foundation for Healthcare Improvement (CFHI), is looking at how the Diabetes Management Centres and PHC partners with patients and families at the direct clinical care level and at the program/team level.
- The **Career Development Dinner** provided a venue for Family Medicine Residents and Family Physicians to network and learn about practice & service opportunities for Family Physicians in Central Zone.
- Family Physicians, ISANS and the Halifax Refugee Clinic have partnered to provide **Refugee Health Services** at the Dalhousie Family Medicine Mumford Clinic.
- The **NS Brotherhood** team has been created to provide direct service to African Nova Scotia men within their communities throughout Central Zone.
- Family Physician placements have been made in Windsor, Hatchett Lake and Dartmouth through the Clinical Assessment for Practice Program (**CAPP**) and the **Return of Service** Programs.
- **The Maritime Family Practice Research Network (MaRNet-FP)** collates patient and practice data for research and quality of care outcomes data from 60 Nova Scotia providers and almost 80 000 patients. Ongoing PHC research initiatives include the **Collaborative for Primary Healthcare Research (CoR-PHC)** and the **Nova Scotia Primary and Integrated Healthcare Innovations Network (NS-PIHCI)**.
- Survey results from the 2014 Family Physician Survey led to the creation of **A Vision for Family Practice** to guide the work of DFP. The **Community Council** is creating recommendations and position statements based on this work.
- **Primary Health Care Connections** placed over 100 “hard to place” patients with a Family Physician and has almost 10,000 hits per month to the webpage. The service also connects newborns to a Family Physician through a partnership with the IWK.
- **Community Clinical Services Planning** considers how community-based programs and services will be present and work together in the community over the next 5-10 years. Community Health Networks will plan for, and later organize, care delivery within each community. Community Profiles have been developed for each Community Health Network that includes population demographics, and health status information.
- **Your Way to Wellness (YW2W)** established new community partnerships in the East Preston Family Resource Centre and the Halifax Mi’kmaq Native Friendship Centre. Peer leaders are being trained to facilitate the program in Arabic.
- **prideHealth** offered health care providers a three day training session on “Readiness and Eligibility for Gender Transition Treatments”.
- The **prideHealth** directory offers a list of health and wellness providers who are self identify as being knowledgeable and committed to LGBTIQ health.
- Over 30 DFP members supported the pilot testing for the proposed new provincial **Personal Health Record**, in which several thousand patients were able to access their own lab and DI results and communicate with their Family Physician by email.