



## Champlain ABI Coalition Meeting Minutes

[www.champlainabicoalition.com](http://www.champlainabicoalition.com)

March 6, 2020 @ 9h00

Ontario Health East, 4200 Labelle Street in the Boardroom

**Attendees:** Suzanne McKenna (recorder), Denis Boileau (Vista), Christie Swann (Pathways & BIAOV), Joanne Winckel (Aphasia Centre), Dr. Stuart Howe (CEO Spinal Cord Injury Ontario, guest speaker), Tammy St. Jean (Champlain LHIN, telephone), Tammy Kuchynski, Amy Cross (student, Vista), Darlene McKenny (Pathways), Katie Jacobson-Lang (City of Ottawa, telephone), Stacey Moore (MOD)

**Regrets:** Genevieve Parent (CHEO), Michelle McDonald (BIC), Steve Vachon (Addictions), Sonshire Figueira (TOH, Civic), Beth Donnelly (Stroke Network), Sylvia Pearce (TOHRC), Shaundra Ridha (Champlain LHIN), Leanne Boisvert (CHEO), Patsy McNamara (TOHRC), Lori St. Jean (CMHA), Wendy Muckle

*Presentation:* **Dr. Stuart Howe** - CEO of Spinal Cord Injury Ontario (45 minutes)  
See PowerPoint presentation attached

1. Confirmation of the agenda Confirmed D. Boileau
2. Approval of the minutes: December 6, 2019 - approved D. Boileau  
Action Items from the minutes – completed
3. **Minutes taking:** Denis suggested the rotation of members to take minutes beginning at June's meeting. It was all agreed. It will be assigned by alphabetical order of the perspective member's organization.  
Joanne Winckel of the Aphasia Centre will be the recorder for June's meeting.  
**ACTION:** Suzanne will send template to Joanne
4. System Navigator Report S. McKenna
  - **Education/Awareness including Provincial ABI Screener:**
    - **Ottawa West Probation and Parole Office:** Presentation to probation officers at their February staff meeting.
    - **St. Lawrence College in Cornwall:** Presentation to class of PSWs
  - **Provincial Navigator Meeting Highlights:** planning the next Navigator Retreat in Toronto in May. Re: Transitional Funding Veronica reported that funding may be reduced due to lack of usage. If we do not use the funds, then the dollars will be reduced. Veronica encouraged us to choose individuals that are not as complex for example acute individuals just coming out of hospital.

The MOH has requested a provincial ABI resource list which currently does not exist. As a result, this information is being consolidated to send to the Ministry by today. The MOH is asking in order to capture information to see the need or demand.

With this information, we are currently creating a standard Provincial ABI Pathway to give to the MOH providing a better picture of the current ABI population.

**ACTION:** Suzanne to send Transitional Funding application and protocols to Coalition.

- **Networking**

**HSJCC:** we have had two meetings in the past three months and am actively involved with the Education & Training Sub-Committee. Stay tuned for upcoming Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST) which will be a two-day interactive workshop in suicide first aid as well as training regarding Seniors & Justice.

**ACTION:** Suzanne to send dates of training workshops when established.

**Meeting with Justice Perkins-McVey at the Ottawa Courthouse** together with the ED of BIC to discuss ABI and the criminal justice system. She informed us of the lack of criminal code for ABI and encouraged us to pursue this.

**Meeting with policy advisors of Justice Minister:** with ED, Michelle McDonald of BIC providing a briefing report to validate the Criminal Code change to include ABI.

**ACTION:** Suzanne to send Briefing Report to Coalition.

**COOK Assistive Technology** for clients with TBI within home and clinical contexts study: to improve their safety and independence in everyday activities. The team has been working on developing an innovative meal preparation technology for clients with TBI over the last 8 years. This technology is called the Cognitive Orthosis for cooking (COOK). The main goal of COOK is to increase independence and safety during meal preparation for individuals with TBI. The technology is connected to a regular stove.

**Caregiver Retreat Planning Committee created and hosted by Citizen Advocacy of Ottawa:** The topic of this year's Caregiver Retreat is "Caregiver Mental Health: Pathways to Wellness" taking place on April 25 and 26<sup>th</sup> at the Brookstreet Hotel. Exhibit tables are available if anyone is interested. <https://www.citizenadvocacy.org/caregiver-retreat/>

- **Intakes and referrals:** Referrals, Navigator calls, continue to increase received from survivors, families, physicians, health professionals and colleagues.

**Upcoming Conferences/Education Opportunities:**

- **Brain Injury Canada Conference:** April 30 & May 1, 2020 at the Ottawa Convention & Event Centre
- **Hamilton ABI Conference:** April 30, May 1, 2020 at the Hamilton Convention Centre which will focus on neurobehavioural rehabilitation for individuals with acquired brain injury, complex mental health and/or addiction challenges.
- **Toronto ABI Network conference** (Marriott Eaton Centre) – November 12th-13th

5. PABIN update

D. Boileau

Screening for TBI in Ontario Youth Court

We have a grant from the Ontario Neurotrauma Foundation to develop a plan to screen for TBI in Ontario Youth Court. The specific objectives are at the bottom of this email. We launched the project last week and have until September to develop the plan. Our collaborators include representatives from Probation and Parole, Human Services and Justice Coordinating Committee, Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, criminal defense law, and the Ontario Brain Injury Association.

We would appreciate hearing your previous experience with Youth Criminal Justice and advice about this project. A few questions for discussion are:

1. To your knowledge, in your region does anyone screen for TBI? If yes, who, when, where, and using what tool? What happens to this information?
2. What do you see as needs or gaps in the system?
3. What do you see as barriers to developing and implementing a screening?

Meeting with the Ministry of Health

A few members of PABIN meet will be meeting with representatives of the Ministry of Health every month. At the first meeting held, the PABIN members realized that the Ministry knows very little about the services offered to those with an ABI nor do have very concrete numbers of the number of people with an ABI receiving services throughout the province of Ontario.

CO-19

The members discussed CO-9. Mainly the impact that this virus can have upon the services rendered for clients but also the consequences for employees. Certainly if an employee contracts this virus then the agency can as a minimum ask the employee to produce a doctor's certificate to ensure that he/she has a clean bill of health. If an employee has to stay home in self-quarantine for a period of 14 days, should the agency still pay this employee. As such circumstances happen and occur the question remains if the Ministry will provide additional dollars to agencies who must deal with the ordeal of the corona virus.

Terms of reference

The terms of reference of PABIN need to be reviewed. A small group from the membership will come together to review these and propose changes. The revised edition will be presented at the next meeting of PABIN.

6. Ontario Health East update Shaundra Ridha LHINS  
have been incorporated into 5 regions of Ontario Health each with a CEO/Transition Lead and a Board of Directors (same board for all)  
Our region Ontario Health (East Region) incorporates the former Champlain/Central East and South East LHINS  
Our CEO/Transition Lead is Renato Discenza and the new OH CEO is Matt Anderson.  
We had our first OH Leadership Meeting last week and until further notice our work continues as per normal. We are reaching out and getting to know our colleagues and programs they offer. You have most likely heard of last week's announcement with respect to Modernizing the Delivery of Home and Community Care. This and other updates can be accessed at: <http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/news/connectedcare/default.aspx> you can set this up to provide updates to your inbox.
7. New Business: No new business
8. Member Updates:  
**Pathways to Independence:** Currently working on pandemic planning. Received day programming funding and will be opening 10 new spots per week. Looking at relocating the Ottawa office, location to be determined.  
**CMHA:** Lori St. Jean - *Absent*  
**BIAOV:** Christie Swann – Currently recruiting for a recreation program Coordinator. Partnering with the Robin Easey Centre to provide them with a space to hold their weekly adjustment group. Brain Basics course to be held in March was cancelled due to low registration and will be

postponed until the fall. Step Up work centre has no waitlist at this time and are currently accepting new individuals.

**Vista Centre:** Denis Boileau - Meeting with Interim CEO of Health Ontario East

VCBIS was fortunate to have a meeting with the interim CEO of Health Ontario East. We had an opportunity to introduce ourselves and to advise him of some of the needs required to increase services for those with an ABI. It was a productive meeting and the interim CEO wished to meet with us in another few months to get an update on our activities.

Day program funding

Vista Centre Brain Injury Services (VCBIS) received funding from our local LHIN to add one more day to the Day Program. Therefore the Day program can now operate 3 days instead of 2 and increase services to more clients by accepting another 10 clients to this extra day. We are going to develop a day for higher functioning individuals.

Progress Report: VCBIS has assumed the lead in developing an Ontario Health Team for those with an ABI in the Champlain region. The latest progress report on this venture was submitted to the Ministry of Health in December. We await the responses from the Ministry to pursue with this OHT

Tammy Kuchynski - Call for Submission – Assisted Living Services – We, nor any other ABI proposals were accepted. Each section of the submission was rated. I have asked what our total score was, as well am waiting to hear who got funding.

Poster Presentation: We got good reviews for our poster presentation about the results of the program evaluation conducted by graduate students last year at the UHN's Traumatic Brain Injury Conference in February. We have been accepted as a poster presentation at the Hamilton Health Sciences' 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference on Neurobehavioural Rehabilitation in Acquired Brain Injury.

Homeless Prevention Services: With the assistance of Access Solve we have submitted an application for a seed grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation. The Homelessness prevention coordinator (HPC) project is a service initiative that will assist people with brain injuries to retain and sustain access to safe, affordable housing. These individuals struggle with short term memory impairment, organization, insight, literacy, comprehension, impulse control, and often experience barriers to current service models available. Due to difficulties within these areas, individuals experience profound and long-term barriers in housing. Individuals accessing this program struggle to access medical and support services. Often, they are not able to access support, as services do not exist for their condition in our community. Long term homelessness, shelter stays, incarceration, and frequent hospitalization are commonplace, and are made more likely by the cognitive barrier. Along with creating a support service, we aim to enhance connections for individuals and education for stakeholders to better comprehend the role cognitive impairment may play in long term homelessness.

**Ethics and Professional Boundaries:** This presentation was developed at VCBIS' request. Ethicists Darquise Lafrenière, Ph.D. Regional Ethicist Nikolija Lukich MA, PhD(c) Regional Ethicist, from the Champlain Centre for Ethics.

**CHEO:** Lianne Boisvert – *Absent*

**Aphasia Centre:** Joanne Winckel – No update

**TOHRC:** Sylvia Pearce – The PODS project is currently wrapping up. The feedback from patients and their families continues to be quite positive. We are currently working on spreading this initiative to the other programs within TRC.

The ABI Day Program has undergone a review with the assistance of the TOH Quality team. Through this process we have developed a patient experience survey that is now distributed to patients upon completion of the program. We surveyed patients that participated in the

