



## Champlain ABI Coalition Meeting Minutes

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

**September 4, 2020 @ 9h00**

**Attendees:** Suzanne McKenna (Champlain LHIN, recorder), Denis Boileau (Vista), Joanne Winckel (Aphasia Centre), Darlene McKenny (Pathways), Katie Jacobson-Lang (City of Ottawa); Kevin Barclay (Champlain LHIN); Patsy McNamara (TOHRC); Sylvia Pearce (TOHRC); Michelle McDonald (BIC), Beth Donnelly (Stroke Network)

**Guests:** Kristen Reilly and Judy Gargaro of Ontario Neurotrauma Foundation (ONF)

**Regrets:** Genevieve Parent (CHEO), Steve Vachon (Addictions), Sonshire Figueira (TOH, Civic), Tammy St. Jean (Champlain LHIN); Christie Swann (Pathways); Leanne Boisvert (CHEO); Stacey Moore (MOD); Lori St. Jean (CMHA); Wendy Muckle (Ottawa Innercity Health)

**Presentation:** **Kristen Reilly & Judy Gargaro**– Ontario Neurotrauma Foundation (45 minutes)  
See PowerPoint presentation attached

1. Confirmation of the agenda Confirmed D. Boileau
2. Approval of the minutes: June 5, 2020 - approved D. Boileau  
Action Items from the minutes – completed
3. System Navigator Report S. McKenna
  - Despite COVID still receiving e-mails and phone calls about complex cases. Many of those calls are requesting housing and unfortunately the default is LTC as our housing waitlist is too long.
  - **Provincial Navigator updates:** Many meetings basically COVID check-ins this summer to share and support during these questionable times. These include HSJCC, PABIN and Provincial Navigators.  
John Zsofcsin of Hamilton Health Sciences was a guest at our last meeting in June. Regarding the regional rehab update: Due to COVID19 measures all rehab units had to determine which patients could safely be discharged home in order to free up space for overflow. He has provided us with the list of CIC's working in each of our LHIN's. The community programs are not yet open.  
Seema Sethi and Oneicka Porter have been identified as the new Ministry contacts and Seema is brand new to ABI. Veronica will bring her up to speed about ABI (PABIN and Navigators etc.).  
**Plant a Home:** Plant a Home is a housing provider rethinking how to provide living accommodations and support services to adults with disabilities. They are beginning a pilot project in London, Ontario.  
**HSJCC:** next meeting is on Sept. 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**Partners for Planning** - free resources and information for people with disabilities and their families. <http://www.planningnetwork.ca/en-ca/Home>

**Citizen Advocacy of Ottawa:** the Caregiver Retreat has been cancelled and rescheduled in May of 2021. Citizen Advocacy of Ottawa is now renamed ABLE2

**OBIA: Caregiving After Brain Injury** – on-line series of 6 modules and resources to assist caregivers looking after a loved one with brain injury. [www.caregiverinfo.ca](http://www.caregiverinfo.ca)

**OCO:** Ontario Caregivers Organization continues to have webinars and support for all caregivers. An excellent resource to share with caregivers especially in this time of COVID.

**Care to Share ABI Caregiver Group:** This is a FREE support group for family members and caregivers of survivors of a brain injury, offered through the collaboration of the BIAWW, St. Joseph's Health Centre Guelph, and Traverse Independence.



2020-Caregiver-Support---Fall-Sessions.ppt

**Webinars:** attended various webinars mostly related to COVID-19 such as CLEO, Step-by-step information about legal problems for Ontario - practical, and easy to understand [www.stepstojustice.ca](http://www.stepstojustice.ca); the Ontario Caregivers Organization.

#### **Upcoming Conferences/Education Opportunities**

- a. Brain Injury Canada National Conference, June 2-4, 2021
- b. Toronto ABI Network Virtual Conference – November 12th-13th

4. PABIN (Provincial ABI Network) update D. Boileau  
Many of the agencies are developing an on-line model of delivering services. Some of the agencies are implementing these faster than others. Some of the questions raised include which virtual platform to use, the cost of the on-line platforms and so on.  
Many of the agencies require more supplies of PPE and in some areas the supplies of these are harder to obtain than in other regions. Also the cost of these has tripled in price. It is hoped that the local LHINs will decide to reimburse the agencies for these extra costs.  
Many of the agencies have filled-out the required forms to receive the pandemic pay for their agency but only a few of them have received the funding.  
The Network was presented with the COVID-19 impact survey and discussed some of the findings.
5. Ontario Health East update Kevin Barclay LHINs  
Ontario Health continues to work towards the transformation of former LHIN functions into Ontario Health East based on work plan between Ministry and Ontario Health. Home and Community Care will remain the same resource. A lot of work done in regards to pandemic. United Way and Federal government have invested to provide support.  
Ontario Health Teams update – integrated entities all responding to Renato and one board. That structure has been in place for over a year and not many changes. No further details beyond that at this time.
6. New Business:
  - i. Review of the Terms of Reference D. Boileau  
Tabled to next meeting's agenda
  - ii. Strategic Planning D. Boileau

Table to next meeting's agenda

7. Member Updates:

**Pathways to Independence:** Christie Swann - *Absent*

**BIC:** Michelle McDonald - Brain injury Canada received a three year grant from the federal government to support the development of a comprehensive evidence-based online resource for acquired brain injury. The site will be set up as three microsites: one for survivors; one for families/caregivers; and one for health care and health service professionals. The site will take visitors from the point of injury, through diagnosis, acute care, in-patient and outpatient, and the complexities of living with a brain injury. The site has been developed to be completely accessible and content is designed with the user in mind. Delivery of information will be logical, simplified and uncluttered. The site is overseen by a Scientific Advisory Committee of top clinicians and researchers in acquired brain injury from across Canada. We will be starting promotion soon with a launch date in October. The site url will still remain [www.braininjurycanada.ca](http://www.braininjurycanada.ca)

We have also received funding to develop content around mental health and isolation in brain injury as a result of the pandemic. We will be sending a survey to different stakeholder groups (persons with brain injury, family/caregivers, health/service providers and brain injury associations) to capture their experience during the pandemic. This information will be used to create content in a variety of formats to educate and create awareness about, as well as decrease the impact of isolation during future pandemics. Content will be applicable to individuals with ABI, families/caregivers, and health/service providers. Content will include:

- Interactive education modules
- Personal stories
- Best practices
- Input from experts
- Instructional videos – physical activity, meditation, mindfulness, nutrition
- Future pandemic preparedness

We will also be developing an online education module for PSW and other health service providers on Understanding Brain Injury. While these essential workers have received proper training in their field, many not have received specific training in working with patients/clients with brain injury. If we can arm these professionals with skills and knowledge in brain injury, we are ensuring they provide better service to their patients/clients. This course will be available for FREE and will be developed with input from professionals and overseen by our Scientific Advisory Committee.

**CMHA:** Lori St. Jean – *Absent*

**BIAOV:** Scott reported that their golf tournament is on Tuesday September 15, 2020 and will have an outdoor patio social following instead of the usual dinner due to the Covid-19 restrictions. Also due Covid-19, their Fall Fundraiser will be an online event this year. The Step Up Work Centre has hired a staff that is running the Virtually Step Up group once a week, mostly working on doing up the monthly newsletter. The staff also have been doing weekly phone calls to members that don't have video conferencing access. Starting later this month, the staff is going to be setting up some small group activities in the community. Scott also reported that the BIAOV/SUWC are moving. No location has been determined as of yet.

**Vista Centre:** Denis Boileau – VCBIS is delivering services to its clients through the use of virtual meetings. The counsellors scheduled and use the on-line platform of MeetFox for these virtual meetings. The Day program in Cornwall is now offering an in-person program which is limited to 6 people per session and all of the proper precautions are taken. We are exploring the possibility of projecting these meetings on-line so that others can also participate virtually in these meetings.

The Ottawa Day program is offering its program virtually and we would like to offer it in-person but we lack a place or space to be able to do this. VCBIS is exploring the possibility of relocating into another space so that the Day program can be offered in-person.

VCBIS has received a 40K grant from United Way to help with the costs due to COVID-19 such as purchasing on-line platforms and more. VCBIS has received a 75K grant from the Trillium Foundation to pursue a project in regards to exploring the homelessness issue for those with an ABI. VCBIS is also preparing a proposal for the Trillium Foundation in the amount of 140K to help cover the costs of delivering virtual programs.

**CHEO:** Lianne Boisvert – *Absent*

**Aphasia Centre of Ottawa (ACO):** Joanne Winckel

ACO continues to accept new referrals and offer virtual services (conversation groups, speech-language therapy, and social work). With funding from a Community Foundation grant, we have created an iPad lending library to allow clients who cannot afford a device to access our virtual services. Offering services virtually is also allowing us to provide service to those who live outside of Ottawa for whom transportation to our centre might be difficult or impossible.

**TOHRC:** Sylvia Pearce – The ABI inpatient unit continues to accept patients from the regional hospitals and the community. There are empty beds on the inpatient unit right now, so there is no wait time. We are now permitting visitors to come on to the unit and following the visitor guidelines for this. This includes designating 2 people as visitors, 1 pre-scheduled visit permitted for 1 hour each day, and visitors are screened at the entrance. The Behavioural Outreach Services continue to run primarily virtually, but have begun in-person visits when required. The ABI Day Hospital program continues to run primarily virtually (both individual and group therapy). This has been quite successful and we have received positive feedback on the virtual format. There is a cohort of patients that are unable to participate virtually and will be brought in to TRC for in-person therapy in November. The ABI Day Hospital is also excited to begin a pilot project with the LoveYourBrain yoga group. TOH is officially a clinical affiliate with this group and we will be offering the 6-week program as part of our ABI Day Hospital program. This pilot will begin September 21.

Patsy McNamara – Robin Easey Centre has been accepting patients from hospital and community. Meetings and services are virtual.

**City of Ottawa:** Katie Jacobson-Lang – The City of Ottawa ABI/PS Day program shut down from mid-March to the end of August 2020. We just re-opened our in person programming 3 days per week (instead of 5)- Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday- out of our East location of Bob Macquarie Recreation Complex. The program is adhering to many guidelines set forth by the city of Ottawa Recreation, Culture and Facility services (RCFS), Ottawa Public Health and the province of Ontario. These guidelines include maintaining 2m space between participants and staff as much as possible, staff wearing masks at all times and visors when 2m cannot be maintained, enhanced cleaning protocols, adjustments in programming including limited numbers in the

swimming pool, no special guests or community outings, and no use of the gym (at the moment). Activities are chosen that are able to maintain physical distancing and limit the use of shared equipment.

We are working to develop a virtual program on the other 2 days-Monday and Thursday. This programming will target existing participants who are uncomfortable attending in person due to Covid-19, as well as new referrals. This is scheduled to start on November 1<sup>st</sup>, and will consist of 2 or 3 1.5 hour sessions with 4 to 5 participants. Katie is currently doing an environmental scan of other agencies providing virtual programming for individuals with ABI/PS, to assist in the creation.

In the meantime, Katie is planning to restart the weekly calendar that was shared with existing program participants, new referrals and other agencies (i.e. Champlain LHIN, Robin Easey Centre etc.) upon request. This is scheduled to begin September 21<sup>st</sup>.

Overall the city is beginning a phased approach to reopening recreation, fitness and arts programming that follows guidelines set forth by RCFS, OPH, and the Ontario provincial government.

**Stroke Network:** Beth Donnelly - *Absent*

**March of Dimes:** Stacey Moore – *Absent*

**Ottawa Inner City Health:** Wendy Muckle - *Absent*

8. Date of next meeting – **December 4, 2020**      **Recorder:** Katie Jacobson-Lang

9. Adjournment      D. Boileau