



**Champlain ABI Coalition Meeting**  
[www.champlainabicoalition.com](http://www.champlainabicoalition.com)

**June 4, 2021 @ 09h00**  
**Virtual meeting**

**Recorder:** Stacey Moore

**Attendance:** Denis Boileau (Vista Centre), Stacey Moore (March of Dimes Canada), Suzanne McKenna (Champlain ABI System Navigator), Christie Swann (Pathways to Independence), Renee Lieboviz Pelletier (Ontario Health East), Joanne Winkel (Aphasia Ottawa), Patricia Flaherty (Connect Communities), Nesrine Awad Shimoon (Robin Easey Centre), Adam Van Sickle (Connect Communities), Susie Bobbitt (CHEO)

**Regrets :** Wendy Muckle, Tammy St. Jean, Michelle McDonald, Steve Vachon, Lori St. Jean (CMHA), Sonshire Figueira, Katie Jacobson-Lang, Patsy McNamara (Robin Easey Centre)

<p><b>1. Presentation:</b></p> <p><b>Connect Communities (Adam Van Sickle, Patty Flaherty – President &amp; COO)</b></p>	<p>Connect Communities located in Hamilton – <b>See presentation slides attached</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-provides a place for people to live post BI or stroke + transition to home</li> <li>-Wrap services around people; they direct their goals and rehab</li> <li>-Helping people to figure out who they are after injury and what they want out of life; Support to be who they want to be and where they want to live</li> <li>-Support with other issues such as additions &amp; mental health</li> <li>-Founded in BC 27 yrs ago as a group home; Now located in several cities/provinces</li> <li>-Opened in Hamilton in 2019; LHIN at the time bundled dollars to add/offer services</li> <li>-28 bedrooms are part of a global contract and 14 bedrooms for other partnerships or private access (or third party contracts)</li> <li>-Life Redesign Model – Starts with a patient getting back to being a person; “Nothing about me without me”; Use Life Redesign coaches who are hired based on fit and skill set</li> <li>-In Hamilton – six homes with 42 bedrooms – some shared amenities such as gyms; Condo style community</li> <li>-Connect @ Home supports people within their own homes in their community</li> <li>-Typical day is structured around each person and what they need and want; it ebbs and flows based on the individual</li> <li>-Average length of stay – difficult to say due to being a newer program in Hamilton – some are as long as 9 months, some are less – really dependent on the person, their needs and goals; Private bedrooms are up to individual</li> <li>-Eligibility criteria – medically stable – then they look at individual goals; License is for 16 years of age and up in Ontario; 18 years of age and up in BC</li> <li>-Email <a href="mailto:adamv@connectcommunities.ca">adamv@connectcommunities.ca</a></li> <li>-Follow up meeting to be arranged by Denis to answer more questions</li> </ul>
<p><b>2. Approval of Agenda</b></p>	<p>Confirmed</p>
<p><b>3. Approval of the minutes</b></p>	<p>Amendment – Date indicates 2020 rather than 2021          Joanne Winckel was present at the last meeting but is not reflected in minutes  <b>Suzanne to adjust the minutes</b></p>
<p><b>4. Champlain ABI System Navigator Report</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Provincial Navigator updates:</b> The Navigator retreat took place on May 3<sup>rd</sup>. Three presentations on young ABI survivors and Long Term Care were highlighted to 2 representatives of the MOH. I presented the story of a 31 year old in hospital and including not only the refusals of multiple LTCH but inappropriateness. Following the 3 presentations a</li> </ul>

(Suzanne McKenna)

potential solution was presented by another Navigator of Central West & Mississauga Halton, Mind Forward to support clients in need of long-term residency who are at risk of losing residential placement due to cognitive or behavioral challenges. This partnership combines the environment, nursing supports, personal support workers of a long term care facility with additional on-site support staffing provided by Mindforward Brain Injury Services (formerly PHABIS).

- **Hamilton Health Sciences:** Met with our respective CIC, Carolyn Galand to discuss the Provincial Pressures list as well as their neurobehavioural unit. And to clarify that two individuals on this list are waitlisted for high needs behavioural beds and three are waitlisted for the 24 hour beds. Our region currently has 5 individuals on the Provincial Pressures list and 1 individual waitlisted for the Neurobehavioural Unit.
- **Participation House:** <https://www.participationhouse.com/about-us/>: I encourage you to visit their website. I met with the ED, Brian Dunne who provided me the history of this charitable organization in London, Ontario. Their goal is to provide assistance to people with significant physical and/or developmental disabilities/brain injuries to reach their full potential in the community. It is committed to encouraging and creating an inclusive community where individuals with disabilities have access to all the community has to offer and are included in a valued and meaningful way. They are providing housing now in Ottawa. Two homes are located in Orleans housing 2 people in one home and 3 in another. Plans to create additional housing in Ottawa is in progress. Participation House is funded by MCCSS and the LHIN.
- **Champlain ABI Housing Task Force:** continues to meet monthly. Membership includes Vista Centre, PW, Brain Injury Association of the Ottawa Valley, Ontario East representative, March of Dimes, myself as well as the Renfrew ABI Housing Work Group. Each of the members have been presenting information on behalf of their organization.
- **Renfrew ABI Housing Work Group:** continues to meet virtually with Lorrie Heffernan advocating to the ministry on their behalf.
- **OBIA:** Brain Injury Speaks in partnership with OBIA and Ontario Neurotrauma Foundation (ONF) has now been approved by the Ministry of Health for funding for one year to continue. The funding will need to be applied for yearly.  
OBIA is part of a National Brain Injury Campaign this month of June “Shining the light on Brain Injuries” in partnership with Brain Injury Canada. Also, two sessions for three weeks of June 2021, Brain Injury Awareness Month, on the OBIA website, Video cast on Concussion with a practitioners and survivor. <https://obia.ca/events>
- **BIC:** just completed their 2 day Navigating the Landscape of Brain injury Virtual Conference this week. Representatives from brain injury associations across Canada did the speaker intros. It was a great networking experience with over 250 in attendance. I am finishing my term as BIC Chair working with the organization for over 6 years.
- **HSJCC:** The announcement by the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services (MCCSS) on the closure of 26 youth justice centres across Ontario.  
Presentation at last meeting by “SAR / now transitioned to AccessMHA”

	<p>The Service Access to Recovery (SAR), formerly the Ottawa Addictions Access and Referral Services (OAARS), is now one of the AccessMHA site and is in transition to become an integral part of the Regional Coordinated Access service (RCA), the mental health and addictions coordinated access program serving the Champlain region. It is a starting point for people 16 years and older who are concerned about their substance use and mental health and want to understand and discuss treatment options. The AccessMHA team of information specialists, navigators and clinicians, provides guidance, support, conducts assessments, match clients to treatment, helps individuals navigate the addictions and mental health systems: from community-based treatment services to the hospital tertiary expertise.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Upcoming Conferences/Education Opportunites 2021:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>World Congress on Brain Injury, July 28<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021</li> <li>OBIA Virtual Provincial ABI Conference, October 28, 29, 2021</li> <li>Provincial HSJCC Virtual Conference, “Community Justice: Transforming Practices in a New World” November 16 – 17, 2021</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>5. PABIN UPDATE</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The representative from the Ministry of Health in charge of the ABI file at the MOH – Katia Fonseca joined this meeting. She wished to know how many ABI agencies are involved in the development of Ontario Health Teams. Very few are involved in any fashion with any OHT.</li> <li>• A group has formed to assure the transition of the Ontario Trauma Foundation. Many of the representatives are from Spinal Cord agencies. PABIN has asked if it would be possible to join this group and the response was yes. Two reps from PABIN have joined this group.</li> <li>• Different agencies are using Covid-19 rapid testing kits. Some agencies test their staff and clients twice a week. There are other agencies that are not using these. No clear direction from the Ministry obliges agencies to use these.</li> </ul>
<p><b>6. Member Updates</b></p>	
<p><b>The Ottawa Hospital/Robin Easey Centre (Nesrine Awad Shimoon)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No updates to report</li> <li>• Proceeding and waiting for restrictions to lift to resume in person services</li> <li>• New brochure – Attached to minutes</li> </ul>
<p><b>March of Dimes Canada (Stacey Moore)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Continuing to provide most services within Champlain with some group activities in Brain Injury being changed to virtual</li> <li>- Some challenges with increased behaviours or frustrations with limited opportunities for outings or recreation</li> <li>- Staff and clients have all had opportunities for vaccinations – currently looking at options for increasing vaccine acceptance among staff</li> </ul>
<p><b>Aphasia Centre of Ottawa (Joanne Winckel)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- ACO is currently offering virtual services. A return to in-person services will occur based on Ottawa Public Health recommendations and will</li> </ul>

	likely be gradual. Post-pandemic, ACO plans to offer both in-person and virtual services.
<b>Ontario Health East (Renee Lebovitz Pelletier)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- No updates at this time</li> <li>- In Champlain there are three senior integration specialists, one integration specialist and one director; Team has gotten smaller but they continue to liaise and collaborate</li> <li>- Renee's email <a href="mailto:renee.lebovitz@ontariohealth.ca">renee.lebovitz@ontariohealth.ca</a></li> </ul>
<b>Vista Centre (Denis Boileau)</b>	<p>-The Executive Director of VCBIS met with Katia Fonseca, the MOH person responsible for the ABI file at the MOH. They discussed 3 particular topics, namely the funding of ABI agencies, that the Champlain ABI Coalition forwarded an application to develop an OHT for people with an ABI in the Champlain region and the lack of housing for the people with an ABI in the Champlain region.</p> <p>-VCBIS has finished its "Year in Review" 2020 report and is distributing this report to other agencies and funders.</p> <p>-VCBIS is in the process of revamping its website as well as translating this website.</p> <p>-VCBIS is in the process of relocating the Ottawa Day Program to the Bronson Centre until March 2022.</p> <p><b>Health Ontario East</b> Health Ontario East (HOE) convened a meeting through the Champlain Community Support Services (CCSN) with community health service agencies to discuss how to continue the delivery of services and funding. About 30 different organizations were able to attend this meeting.</p> <p>HOE is interested in gathering this sector's opinions and views on the delivery of future health services. At this meeting some of the following points were discussed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) As such HOE should consider giving funding first to agencies who deal with complex health issue cases. Such as for example community organizations who deal with clients who have more than one issue such as diabetes, a mental health issue, ABI agencies (as clients have multiple health issues) and so on. From the statistics we know that clients with complex health issues consume 80% of the community health services provided. Therefore such organizations should be considered first for funding dollars allocated.</li> <li>ii) There is a need to continue to offer virtual services but more funding is required to permit agencies to transition to this new model of care. Funding is required for the use of on-line platforms, for computer equipment, training for employees as well as clients on how to use and deliver virtual services and funding to help pay for clients who require and have connectivity issues (High speed internet access)</li> <li>iii) The MSAA agreement should be longer than just for a 1 year term as this does not permit agencies to dwell into long-term planning or to develop new programs.</li> <li>iv) The number of clients should be re-evaluated as in-person meetings are non-existent during this pandemic. Therefore the number of</li> </ul>

	<p>clients to whom in-person services are provided needs to be re-examined</p> <p>v) An emphasis should be placed on the delivery of services to rural area.</p> <p>vi) A concern was expressed by those attending this meeting that agencies need to consider and deal with the issue of employee burn-out and care-giver burn-out. The pandemic has put a strain on staff within the agencies to adapt to a new mode of service delivery and to on-going changes throughout the pandemic. This has caused stress for some of them and as such the workers are tired, frustrated and stressed. Every agency needs to address this concern and consider options to deal with both employee and care giver burn-out.</p>
<b>7. Review of the Terms of Reference</b>	- Denis suggested that he make some suggestions to TOR and send to others.
<b>8. Strategic Planning</b>	- Moved to next meeting
	Meeting Adjourned @ 10:43am
Date of next meeting –	Sept 3, 2021 Minute Taker: Lori St. Jean