

HIV, Disability and Rehabilitation:

An Overview of Programs and Activities

2011-12

and looking ahead to 2012-13

Canadian Working Group on
HIV and Rehabilitation (CWGHR)

Annual General Meeting
June 15, 2012



CWGHR's Vision

The daily lives of people living with HIV are improved in direct and meaningful ways by rehabilitation care, support and services.



Mission

CWGHR is a leader and catalyst for improved rehabilitation services for people living with HIV, through integrated research, education, policy and practice

What do we mean by rehabilitation?

An activity or process that:

- *Promotes improved health and quality of life*
e.g. improving mobility, increased energy, improving mental health, sexual health, access to income security, employment opportunities; community participation
- *Helps to manage, reduce or prevent health and life related problems of a specific condition*
e.g. managing or eliminating pain, conserving energy, lessening fatigue, reducing barriers to employment; preventing other health conditions or emergencies (e.g. heart attack, broken bones, diabetes, depression, anxiety, dementia)



CWGHR Program Areas

Three primary program areas:

- HIV, disability and rehabilitation
- Integrating HIV and other episodic disabilities
- International perspectives

.... promoting an integrated approach to research, education, policy and practice



HIV, Disability and Rehabilitation

To increase awareness of, and access to, rehabilitation programs and services for people living with HIV

Increasing Awareness

- Teaching people with HIV about rehabilitation opportunities
- Teaching rehabilitation workers about HIV - Interprofessional (IPL) course across Canada
- On-line courses – including case studies – curriculum used by universities
- E-Module on HIV and rehabilitation (updated ‘Module 7’)
- Mentorship - Expanding HIV and Rehabilitation Mentorship program
- HIV and depression / mental health - with front line workers
- HIV and aging – national coordinating committee; partnerships with aging field; research projects, presentations at conferences, webinars
- “CWGHR Campus” - *see also list of CWGHR resources in AGM kits*

HIV, Disability and Rehabilitation cont'd.

Research

- Examples: HIV and concurrent conditions (comorbidities); HIV and aging, how people with HIV access rehabilitation
- Collaboration with Canadian and UK researchers - CUHRRC
- Participate in research on policies that restrict or facilitate access to rehabilitation
- HIV, episodic disabilities and employment



HIV, Disability and Rehabilitation (cont'd)

Practice and Policy

- **E-module** - updating rehabilitation practice guidelines
- **Partnerships** to integrate rehabilitation into front-line care for HIV and other related conditions
- **Addressing Policy barriers** to access (who has access to rehabilitation, de-listing of rehabilitation services, etc.) – Think Tank, Background paper, work with policy makers



Integration between HIV and other Episodic Disabilities

To promote cross-disability linkages and action on issues of mutual concern

- Episodic Disabilities Network – income security and employment
- Promote integrated policies and programs
- Provincial cross disability / episodic disabilities network, policy work and education
- Health Gateway – launched new on-line resource centre, information and referral; collaboration with Bridgepoint Health



Integration between HIV and other Episodic Disabilities (continued)

To eliminate barriers to employment AND increase employment opportunities for people to work when their health permits

- Employment network for people with HIV and other episodic disabilities - Episodic Disabilities Employment Network (EDEN)
- Education of employers, human resource and vocational counsellors, and people living with HIV and other episodic conditions (online and in-person courses) –2nd on-line course
- Promote more flexible policies through government and insurance companies – so people can work when health permits without risking social safety net (research, policy briefs, presentations, etc.); MP's re: changes to EI sick benefits

International Perspectives

To promote communication between Canada and other countries for global action on issues of HIV, disability and rehabilitation

- Preparing for AIDS 2012
- Global HIV and disability network– Global Contact Group on AIDS and Disability
- Adapt curriculum on HIV, disability and rehabilitation – on-line and in-person
- HIV & UN Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) activities – policy and education – workshops – accessibility and inclusion

Organizational and Partnership Development

- Evaluating CWGHR strategic plan 2010-13
- CWGHR Development Strategy – organizational sustainability and growth
- Collaboration with national HIV partners e.g. HIV education/practice - promote leadership and coordination of national HIV initiatives – integration of rehabilitation issues
- Partnership development and communications with CWGHR membership and other stakeholders

Looking Ahead 2012 and Beyond

- Develop new and/or update educational initiatives (see list in kits)
 - On-line Courses - 3rd course on episodic disabilities in the workplace, update interprofessional HIV and rehabilitation course
 - Education on episodic disabilities with employees, unions and employers
 - mentorship program with employers
 - Business case – hiring people with episodic disabilities
 - Continue in-person workshops and curriculum work with universities and colleges
 - Promoting/ facilitating occupational therapy student practicum programs in front-line HIV programs
 - HIV and mental health course for front line workers – promote through continuing education departments/schools



Looking Ahead (cont'd)

- Expand on-line networks on HIV, episodic disabilities
 - Health Gateway expansion – program maps, apps, etc.
 - Continue to build episodic disabilities employment network (EDEN), blogs, ask HR, etc
- Expanded and enhanced communications
- Increase access to rehabilitation – disseminate discussion paper, hold consultation sessions – education for policy and program changes
- Research – continue to coordinate and strengthen CUHRRC, Knowledge dissemination grant for 2013, participate in CANOC, aging, research on episodic disabilities



Looking Ahead (cont'd)

- HIV and aging – Webinars and workshops, committee coordination, work with home care and caregivers coalitions, continued participation in research; new on-line module on HIV and aging
- Episodic Disabilities Network (EDN) & Ontario (OEDN) - policy work towards more flexible disability income support and employment options
- Global network HIV and disability – info exchange and planning
- Education on HIV and the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Canada and internationally; Conference of States Parties
- AIDS 2012 – e.g. symposium on HIV and disability with UNAIDS, LSF advocacy summit, disability networking zone
- Implementing our Development Strategy
- Preparing for our next strategic plan
- CWGHR 15th anniversary



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CWGHR Program Highlights

Further Highlights
and Discussion in consultation session

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