

Continuing Care Council

The Continuing Care Council, comprised of the Chair and Co-Chairs of Long Term Care Nova Scotia, the Home Care Network, and Diverse Abilities NS (DANS), has been working on advancing priorities around attendance management, employee resiliency, and the human rights remedy (remedy). Its social media strategy has been working well to introduce and raise public awareness of the restructured Council.



In addition to recently meeting with government officials on the remedy, Council members have been kept updated on developments. As the provincial government introduces the processes and structures to transform the disabilities support sector, Council is monitoring and developing a good understanding of the effects the remedy will have on all three sectors. Council will continue to meet with government officials in the future. Council is also exploring a pilot project to help the long-term care, home care, and disabilities sectors address attendance management issues. It continues to work on the details of a project, which are expected to be finalized in the coming weeks.

Council recently met with Darren Steeves, CEO of JackHabbit, who presented on the Q-Life Project. Darren and a group of researchers are looking to engage employees in the health care sector, encouraging them to use Q-Life. Essentially, it is an online tool employees can use to improve their quality of life and improve resiliency.

Long Term Care Nova Scotia

Recently, Long Term Care Nova Scotia (LTC NS) met with Janet-Lynn Huntington, Senior Executive Director, and Katelyn Randell, Director (Long-term Care) of the Department of Seniors and Long-term Care (DSLTC). It was a very productive meeting during which LTC NS introduced its new mandate and provided a quick overview of its strategic priorities – funding, recruitment and retention, and leadership development/succession planning. The meeting was an opportunity for LTC NS to express its views and proposed solutions on food budgets, bad debt, cybersecurity, evacuation planning, physician recruitment, and insurance. These issues align with some of the department’s priorities as they consider what the sector will require in the future. LTC NS and DSLTC agreed there would be ongoing discussion. DSLTC stated it is very likely they will be returning to LTC NS with some questions or clarification on some of the issues to better understand what may be possible for the sector. It was a constructive discussion and LTC NS looks forward to future collaboration with the department to advance positive outcomes for the long-term care sector.



LTC NS also recently met with representatives from the NS Therapeutic Recreation Association (NSTRA). The NSTRA presented information outlining how its members can help the long-term sector and how they fit within the continuum of care. Representatives from NSTRA are happy to meet with individual administrators at any time.



LTC Zonal Groups

While the dog days of summer have officially ended, they never really arrived for the LTC Zonal groups. To say it has been an interesting and challenging summer for many members would be an understatement.

Members shared their challenges and experiences with forest fires, flooding and resulting evacuations. The collective experience of multiple facilities, near one another, in both Central and Western Zones, highlighted the need for a reset on evacuation planning; an issue that has been elevated to LTC NS for further advocacy. Insurance rates continue to come up in discussions and will continue as we deal with the aftermath of this summer's weather events. This issue has been elevated to LTC NS.

Earlier this year, NZ invited the Pharmacy Association of Nova Scotia to their zonal meeting to discuss pharmacy services available to LTC residents. Representatives subsequently met with LTC NS to discuss a few changes which are now available to LTC residents including senior medication reviews, prescription renewals, assessments and prescribing for Herpes Zoster (Shingles), and the community pharmacy anti-coagulation program. A one-pager with additional details will soon be circulated to zonal members.

Access to primary care for LTC residents remained a topic of discussion as well as the use of agencies for staffing requirements; the lack of space to appropriately deal with end-of-life care; and practices around the handling of vaccine mandate changes. Finally, zones have been updated on the survey results around food costs and budgets with an escalation of this issue to LTC NS for information and further action.

As always, should zonal members have additional issues to bring forward for their next meeting or ideas for special guests you would like to meet, please feel free to reach out to Amber at amber.lutes@healthassociation.ns.ca. We hope to see you at your next scheduled zonal meeting!



CENTRAL ZONE LTC ADMINISTRATORS



EASTERN ZONE LTC ADMINISTRATORS



NORTHERN ZONE LTC ADMINISTRATORS



WESTERN ZONE LTC ADMINISTRATORS



Did you know???

Continuing Care Council and Diverse Abilities NS are on LinkedIn!

Give us a follow at:

<https://www.linkedin.com/showcase/continuing-care-council/>

<https://www.linkedin.com/showcase/diverse-abilities-ns/>

Home Care Network



The Home Care Network (HCN) continues to focus on several initiatives.

Business continuity planning, LPN Supervisor wage parity, and Alayacare software implementation continue to be top priorities and progress is being made in each of those areas. The HCN regularly meets with SLTC wherein regular updates are provided on various pilot projects occurring in the sector including programs targeting adult day programs, community OT/PT involvement, and cluster care. The various pilots seem to be progressing. Feedback from the Network members suggested the OT pilot was showing initial signs of success and having a positive impact on staff safety. Additionally, the Home Care Network continues to move forward with initiatives focused on high-risk work environments, data reporting and return to work and stay at work programs.

At the last HCN meeting there was discussion about the impact of research and development as part of the Networks' strategic directions and consequently Bernadette continues to stay connected to the CN Centre For Occupational Health and Safety and has plans to meet with MSVU and the Centre on Aging to discuss various initiatives and proposals underway.

Lastly, the HCN will be holding an in-person meeting in September wherein Davis Pier, Dallas Mercer Consulting, Aware-NS, and the Health Care Human Resources Sector Council will be presenting information and conducting workshops for feedback on ongoing projects.

Diverse Abilities Nova Scotia



Members of Diverse Abilities Nova Scotia (DANS) continue to be actively engaged in the release of the human rights remedy (remedy) report last spring. DANS recently met with Maria Medioli, provincial government lead on the implementation of the human rights remedy, to learn more about the government's plans to implement the remedy. There is a lot of work that has been done by the government since the release of the report, but it is clear there is so much more that needs to be done. At the moment, it is still unclear which facilities will be closing and when, but it is expected more will be known towards the end of 2023.

DANS is also working on a project related to the Independent Living Support (ILS) program. With the forthcoming changes outlined in the remedy, there will be an increased reliance on ILS to deliver services when participants move into the community. DANS members are looking at ways to ensure the ILS program will meet the needs of participants and allow for successful transition to community. DANS members will meet with government officials soon to discuss the ILS program.

Recently, DANS heard a presentation from the Nova Scotia Therapeutic Recreation Association (NSTRA) on how their members can support DANS members. As supported decision-making fundamentally determines how participants access the care and services they want, there may be a role for NSTRA in successful system transformation.