



Canadian Child & Youth Health Coalition

Overview & Update Marilyn Booth

CCYHC 2007 Annual Symposium
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Canadian Child & Youth Health Coalition

□ The National Challenge

- Children and youth represent more than **one-quarter** of Canada's population and the **future of our country** – our most precious and important resource.
- Despite significant progress in recent decades towards improving the health and well-being of our youngest citizens, **there remains much to be done** in critical areas of national importance.
- To ensure we do not lose focus on our children and youth, an **unprecedented national collaboration** has emerged over the last three years.
- The **energy, resources** and **innovative ideas** of key partner organizations have come together to bring national attention to the health and health care needs of our young population.

Canadian Child & Youth Health Coalition

□ The National Challenge

- CCYHC is a collaboration of six major national institutional and program partners working together ***with a common vision to advance the cause of child and youth health in Canada.***
- Established in 2004, the current membership of CCYHC includes the:
 - Canadian Association of Paediatric Health Centres (CAPHC)
 - Canadian Child Health Clinician Scientist Program (CCHCSP)
 - Council of Canadian Child Health Research (CCCHR)
 - Paediatric Chairs of Canada (PCC)
 - Pediatric Surgical Chiefs of Canada (PSCC)
 - Maternal, Infant, Child, & Youth Research Network (MICYRN)

CCYHC: Our Partners

- **Canadian Association of Paediatric Health Centres**
(CAPHC; www.caphc.org)
 - Established in 2001 through a transformative process of organizational renewal of the **Canadian Association of Paediatric Hospitals** which occurred in response to member needs arising from emerging health care challenges and shifting landscape of child and youth health service delivery in Canada - child healthcare organizations were undergoing fundamental structural changes.
 - Today, CAPHC is a 42 member organization representing **multidisciplinary health professionals** providing health services for children, youth and their families within quaternary and tertiary health centres, community health centres, rehabilitation centres, and home care provider agencies nationwide.

CCYHC: Our Partners

- **Canadian Association of Paediatric Health Centres**
(CAPHC; www.caphc.org)
 - Committed to promoting, facilitating, and advocating for **national health delivery guidelines** supported by evidence.
 - All Canadian children's hospitals and their respective Foundations are **members of CAPHC**, thereby providing linkages to clinical care, education and research. A complete list of member organizations can be found on the CAPHC website.
 - **Mandate:** To effect system-wide change in the delivery of health services to children and youth across Canada. CAPHC focuses on initiatives that have national and broad relevance and which are practical and actionable at the point of service delivery.

CCYHC: Our Partners

- **Canadian Child Health Clinician Scientist Program**
(CCHCSP; www.cchcsp.ca)
 - A program providing support for highly qualified child health clinician candidates to develop the requisite knowledge and skills for a career as an independent **scientist in child health research**.
 - The CCHCSP is the **first national network** of 13 Canadian Child and Youth Health Research Centres dedicated to training the next generation of clinician-scientists.
 - Research training is supervised by a research mentor and advisory committee and structured to facilitate excellence in research with an **interdisciplinary focus**.
 - CCHCSP provides the opportunity for education and collaborative experiences with institutions and researchers across Canada.

CCYHC: Our Partners

□ Council of Canadian Child Health Research (CCCHR)

- Represents all 16 Paediatric Academic Health Sciences Centres across Canada
- **Mandate:** To ensure that all children and youth enjoy the benefits of improved health through access to, and application of, research findings.
- **Key objectives:**
 - foster effective networking related to child and youth health research, education and training;
 - provide a Canadian window for international scientific collaboration;
 - seek synergies to enhance competitiveness of members for research funding.

CCYHC: Our Partners

□ **Paediatric Chairs of Canada**

(PCC; www.paediatricchairs.ca)

- Founded in 1960 as Assembly of Canadian University Paediatric Department Heads, the **Paediatric Chairs of Canada** represent all 16 university affiliated teaching hospitals in Canada.
- **Mission:** To provide national leadership in paediatric research and education to promote the health and health care of children and youth.
- **Objectives:**
 - To enhance national and international **advocacy for pediatric education and research** to improve health of infants, children and youth;

(Cont'd)



CCYHC: Our Partners

□ **Paediatric Chairs of Canada** (PCC; www.paediatricchairs.ca)

■ **Objectives:**

- To enhance development of high quality, high impact **paediatric oriented research**
- To promote and enhance role of leaders in **paediatric education** at undergraduate, postgraduate and continuing medical education levels;
- To promote and assist in development of effective **human resource planning** for academic paediatrics and health care delivery; and
- To promote child and youth **access to coordinated health services** in the best possible environment within academic health sciences centres and the communities they serve.

CCYHC: Our Partners

□ Pediatric Surgical Chiefs of Canada (PSCC)

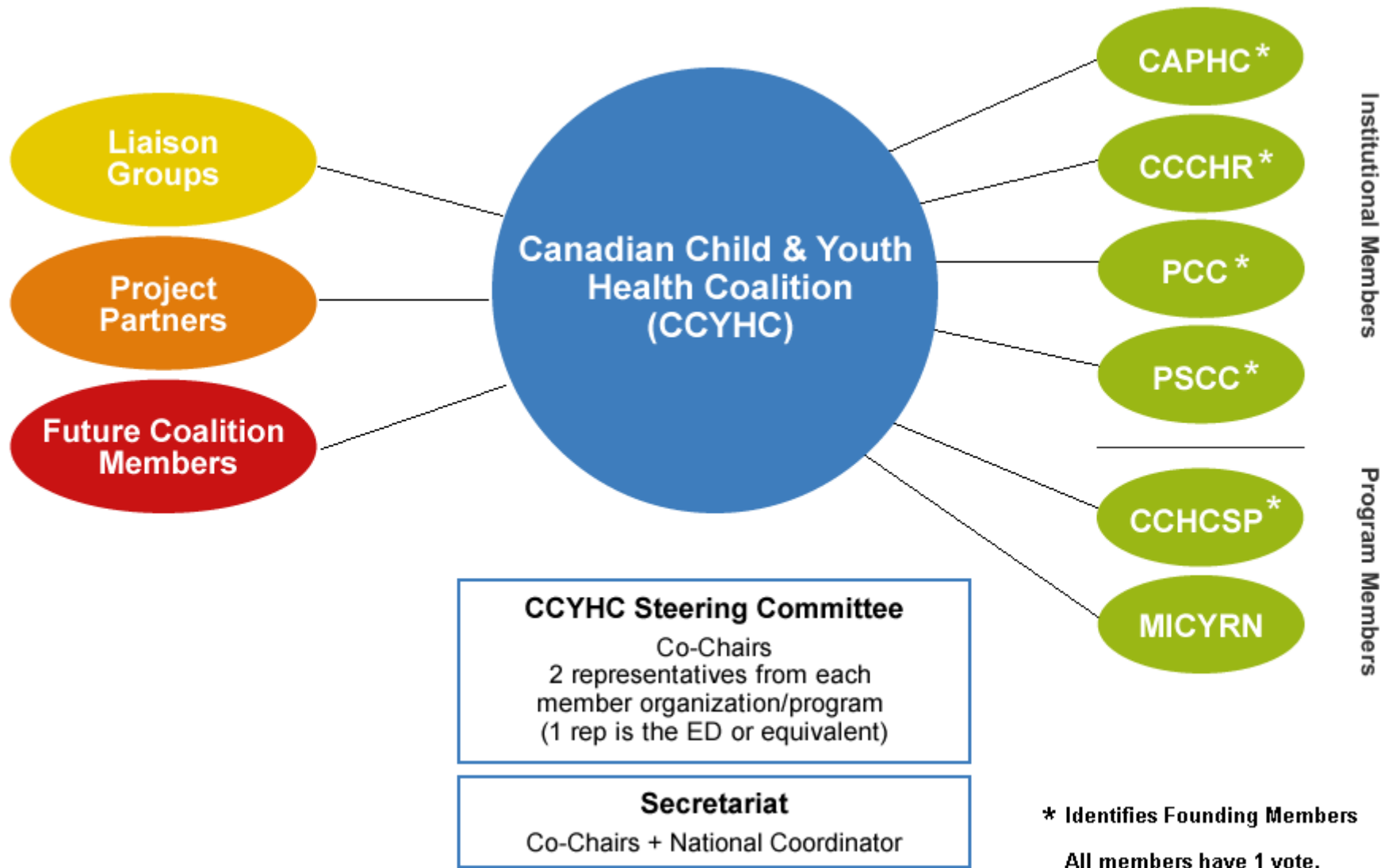
- Representing all 16 Canadian academic health sciences centres
- **Goal:** To provide policy makers, hospital administrators, regional health authorities, universities, government and the public with the most accurate **information about the state of pediatric surgical care and access to services in Canada** to inform decision-making around the provision, allocation, and distribution of health care resources.



CCYHC: Our Vision

- **Building on the combined strengths of its partnerships, the Coalition provides a **powerful framework** for:**
 - The development of **new knowledge** through research collaborations;
 - **National benchmarking** through the development and validation of national child and youth health and health care **indicators**;
 - The promotion of **evidence-based practice, service delivery, and policy**;
 - **Advocacy** on national health and health care issues that will benefit Canadian children and youth; and
 - The development of, and sustained excellence in, **education and training** to ensure a workforce prepared and challenged to meet the health needs of children and youth across the spectrum of promotion, prevention and care.

CCYHC: Current Structure



CCYHC: Priority Programs

- The CCYHC has made significant progress towards achieving its objectives within the context of several **priority initiatives/programs**:
 - **Child & Youth Health Indicators Development Program**
 - **Maternal, Infant, Child, & Youth Research Network (MICYRN)**
 - **National Pediatric Surgical Wait Times Strategy**



CCYHC: Priority Programs

□ **Child & Youth Health Indicators Development Program**

■ **A lack of robust evidence-based indicators and standards impedes our ability to:**

- determine current status of health and health care of Canadian children and youth;
- conduct comparative analyses to assess performance;
- establish benchmarks to establish optimal level of health service delivery.

■ **Evidence-based indicators are essential for identifying:**

- health priorities
- planning services
- allocating resources
- evaluating impact of policies and programs.



CCYHC: Priority Programs

- **Child & Youth Health Indicators Development Program**
 - **Solution?** A strategy for the development, validation, and uptake of health indicators to support empirically based policy and decision-making.
 - Since 2004, CCYHC has been working with the **CIHR Institute of Human Development, Child, and Youth Health** and many content experts, practitioners, and researchers from across the country to develop a national child and youth **health indicators strategy**.
 - In 2006, in collaboration with CIHR- IHDCYH and 13 other partner organizations, the Coalition launched an **RFA to validate and/or develop child and youth health indicators**.



CCYHC: Priority Programs

- **Maternal, Infant, Child, & Youth Research Network (MICYRN)**
 - In 2006, the CCYHC identified a national clinical research network as a top priority and established MICYRN - a multi-disciplinary initiative to support **world-class clinical research nationwide.**
 - **Rationale** - Synergistic strength gained from a formal collaborative network of leading researchers and integrated infrastructure has the potential to spur tremendous advances unattainable by individual groups.
 - MICYRN is now a full **Program Member** of CCYHC under the leadership of Dr. Terry Klassen.

CCYHC: Priority Programs

- **National Paediatric Surgical Wait Times Strategy**
 - **2005** - Dr. Brian Postl, **Federal Adviser on Wait Times** approached CCYHC to lead initiative to develop recommendations for a national paediatric surgical wait times strategy.
 - **2006** – CCYHC, in collaboration with the Pediatric Surgical Chiefs of Canada, hosted the **National Workshop on Paediatric Surgical Wait Times** to develop these recommendations.
 - Representatives from all 16 paediatric academic health science centres came together and **unanimously endorsed a framework and methodology to establish national access targets** for ten paediatric surgical subspecialties.

CCYHC: Advocacy Activities

- CCYHC also works in an **advocacy** role to provide support and feedback to other child and youth related initiatives on a national level:
 - **“Healthy Children and Youth” - Federal Government Consultation** to identify **pressing health issues** facing children and youth, **gaps** in programming and services, and **solutions** which might address these gaps.

June 2007 - In response to an invitation from Dr. Kellie Leitch, Federal Advisor on Healthy Children and Youth, **CCYHC surveyed its members and submitted a comprehensive report** with recommendations for viable, impact-oriented solutions to advance the health of Canada’s children and youth.



CCYHC: Advocacy Activities

- **“Racing for Kids’ Health” – Establishing Priorities in Canadian Child & Youth Health Research**

Early 2007 - In collaboration with **CIHR – Institute of Human Development, Child and Youth Health** and the **SickKids Foundation**, CCYHC developed a brochure designed to highlight current priority areas in Canadian child and youth health research.

The brochure:

- provides **salient facts** related to child and youth health
- lists key **gaps in our knowledge** that future research should attempt to fill
- suggests **how new knowledge can be applied** to improve the health and health care of Canada’s children and youth.

CCYHC: Advocacy Activities

- **Canada's Child & Youth Health Charter**

As one of many important stakeholders, the Coalition has been working (since April 2007) in consultation with the **Canadian Medical Association**, the **Canadian Paediatric Society**, and the **College of Family Physicians of Canada** to finalize a ***Child and Youth Health Charter*** and to move forward a child-health declaration that defines child and youth health as a **key national priority**.



CCYHC: Future Directions

□ CCYHC Steering Committee Retreat

- In May 2007, CCYHC held a planning retreat to review the existing **governance model** of the organization and to develop a **strategic plan** to guide the Coalition's activities over the next 3 years.
- The members agreed that the Coalition should continue to be **strategic** in the face of emerging opportunities but should **determine priorities** and be realistic in its approach.
- CCYHC will continue to **expand its membership** and increase its scope of activities towards addressing the full spectrum of health challenges facing Canada's infants, children, youth and their families.

CCYHC: Future Directions

□ Health Human Resources

- Development of a **HHR Strategy** was identified as an important priority where the combined efforts and expertise of individual members could have significant influence.
- HHR issues will be explored **across interdisciplinary health professions** towards promotion of sustained excellence in education and training to ensure a workforce prepared to meet the health needs of children and youth across spectrum of promotion, prevention, and care.
- Establishment of a **working group to identify 2-3 key areas of focus** which could benefit from unique contribution of CCYHC is planned for the near future.

CCYHC: Future Directions

□ Wait Times

- Wait times were also identified as an important area requiring the continued attention of the Coalition.
- In the year ahead, CCYHC will explore how the targeted surgical wait times strategy could be expanded to address a broader set of wait-time issues/initiatives in **other high priority areas (e.g. mental health, developmental services)** where children and youth wait for essential health care services.



CCYHC: Conclusion

- The Coalition is a **collaborative and consensus-driven** organization representing the interests of the entire child and youth health care community.
- Activities thus far have demonstrated what can be accomplished on a national level by **willing and passionate individuals and organizations.**
- CCYHC will capitalize on this capacity, enthusiasm, and momentum as it continues to **develop and expand its membership and scope of activity** in the coming years.