



Identifying Best Practices and Future Research Opportunities

Background & Rational:

Health promotion and health care delivery are complex issues, in particular, for more vulnerable populations such as children and youth. Many believe that the absence of collaboration among child and youth health networks could lead to inefficient use of limited resources and little real change in the overall outcome of improving the health and well-being of Canadian children and youth.

A network represents a comparatively new and increasingly important form of organization - one that reflects the environmental conditions in which organizations come together to be able to reach goals and objectives in a more efficient and effective manner. These conditions include the growing complexity of key problems or issues, the increasing interdependence among organizations and institutions, and the accelerating pace of change. Forming and developing inter-organizational networks provides a response to this complexity and interdependence. Some observers predict that networks will become the key form of organization in the next 25 years and beyond. (Rupert Chisholm, 1998)

During the last decade, significant investment has been expended by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR), and other national & provincial agencies to the creation of multiple research and health service delivery networks at both regional and national levels. However, significantly fewer resources have been dedicated to coordinating efforts so that information and expertise can be widely shared, and limited resources utilized more effectively.

Canadian Association of Paediatric Health Centres (CAPHC):

Established in 1968 as the Canadian Association of Paediatric Hospitals, CAPHC's mission is to improve health care for Canadian children and youth by supporting health care provider organizations, networks and their members.

CAPHC's members are multi-disciplinary healthcare professionals who provide health services for children, youth and families within tertiary, regional and community health care facilities, rehabilitation centres, and community and home care organizations. CAPHC is closely affiliated with all sixteen academic health sciences centres in Canada providing linkages to education, research, human resources and sub-speciality training in paediatrics.



Exploring Knowledge Brokering Initiatives and Partnership Opportunities

For children many indices are actually getting worse (obesity, mental health, learning disabilities etc.). The impact on society is extensive and the solution is to work across the continuum of care to effectively address these serious problems.

The CAPHC network includes multidisciplinary stakeholders who independently are engaged in research and clinical activity in the many critical areas of public health concerns for children. Over the past twenty-four months, CAPHC has had success -

- Facilitating collaboration of CAPHC members and other national bodies to address an acute and vital issue concerning patient safety – the risk of IV strangulation of infants by tubing and/or other monitor leads. This is an example of CAPHC’s capacity in bringing its own members’ expertise together with a number of other organizations including Health Canada. (*Reference: Health Canada, Health Products and Food Branch, “NOTICE TO HOSPITALS”, Update - December 10, 2003*).
- Developing partnerships with the Paediatric Chairs of Canada (PCC) and the CIHR Institute of Nutrition Metabolism and Diabetes, CAPHC has made a significant contribution in the recent systematic review of the evidence for prevention and/or intervention in the management of Childhood Obesity. This work has resulted in the evidence-based report entitled: “Addressing Childhood Obesity: the Evidence for Action”. This report is currently being translated for broad national distribution and posting on the CIHR-INMD and CAPHC web sites.
- Developing partnerships with the Ontario Hospital Association (OHA) and other partners, CAPHC is currently facilitating a national initiative to provide paediatric patient experience surveying across Canada. Building on the Picker Institute survey questionnaires and methodology, the anticipated outcome of this study will result in the first national paediatric satisfaction tool, to address particular aspects of care as they affect children and families.
- Developing partnerships with PCC, Council for Canadian Health Services Accreditation (CCHSA), CIHI, Canadian Paediatric Decision Support Network, ACAHO, CPS, and NACHRI, CAPHC is currently working to establish national healthcare indicators to provide greater consistency in the provision of healthcare services across Canada. This initiative arises from the current void that exists across Canada in the area of paediatric workload measurements and health service delivery indicators (e.g. access indicators, disease management, utilization indicators etc). There is currently no methodological basis to provide comparative analysis to achieve an optimal level of health services for Canadian children and youth. The establishment of national standards for paediatric health service delivery will inform and assist policy and decision-makers in addressing future paediatric resource planning and allocation.



Knowledge Brokering Proposal

Over the past two years, CAPHC has been working closely with many of our member sites on efforts to share and promote best practices in many key areas of child and youth health service delivery. To date, most of our sharing of information has been coordinated using informal mechanisms (ie teleconferences, surveys, CAPHC's web site, etc).

CAPHC would like to enhance these informal mechanisms, by facilitating the creation of a national child and youth health program focussed on the sharing best practices and facilitating research opportunities that will impact many areas of child and youth health service delivery.

Examples of potential areas of focus may include, but will not be limited to the following:

- Patient safety
- National child and youth health indicators;
- Childhood obesity and healthy body weights;
- The range of transition issues;
- Strengthening community capacity in paediatrics; and
- Health promotion & injury prevention.

Within the coming weeks, an Advisory Committee will select 1 – 3 areas of focus that will be addressed in an initial phase between May and December 2004.

Specifically, we will attempt to:

- Identify research opportunities and clinical leaders within our networks, currently addressing these issues;
- Create an infrastructure across disciplines, sectors, health care facilities/organizations and the continuum of care that will enable national collaborative efforts at the level of health services and policy research, knowledge translation, practice application/implementation, and evaluation;
- Identify and evaluate formal networks as an organizational model(s) to address complex health and health care issues;
- Collaborate on the development and evaluation of models of practice with the goal of providing the most efficient, cost effective, and accessible health care services;

- Facilitate and support the development of national research collaborations which ensure the rapid and efficient development of new knowledge in areas of national importance to the health of children and youth;
- Facilitate and support the application of evidence-based practice and the ability to monitor and report nationally through the development of common child health indicators;
- Collaborate in national strategies that develop and sustain excellence in education and training so that we have a workforce that will address the health needs of children and youth across the spectrum of promotion, prevention and care.

The initial phase of this project, (May and November 2004), will address the following three deliverables as described above:

- A national inventory of models of Networks and collaborations, resources materials and current and emerging issues
- Recommendations for a national research agenda based on current knowledge, capacity and funding opportunities
- An established infrastructure across disciplines, sectors, health care facilities/organizations and the continuum of care that will enable national collaborative efforts at the level of health services and policy research, knowledge translation, practice application/implementation, and evaluation; and
- The development of a tool (eg intra-net) that will be a driving force in the further development of proposals from the networks (formal and informal) to address the current gaps in knowledge translation in priority areas identified

Consultation Activity:

The project will be operated out of Canadian Association of Paediatric Health Centres (CAPHC), National office at the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario in Ottawa, under the direction of CAPHC's CEO, Ms. Elaine Orrbine. This project will be conducted in close collaboration with an expert advisory group that will be assembled by CAPHC. The advisory group will encompass geographical representation and trans-disciplinary strengths.



CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF PAEDIATRIC HEALTH CENTRES (CAPHC)
ASSOCIATION CANADIENNE DES CENTRES DE SANTÉ PÉDIATRIQUES (ACCSP)

In Summary:

CAPHC believes that drawing on the broad range of collective resources and knowledge of all its members will help to improve healthier outcomes and the overall well-being of Canada's children, youth and families.

We also believe that structured collaborative opportunities will likely enhance our collective capacity to address more difficult child and youth health related problems that are only seen in small proportions in any given organization/health centre and/or region.

Given its primary mandate to serve as a "*knowledge broker*" for all its members, CAPHC is committed to building on its current "*network of networks*" to enhance nation-wide communication to promote best practices and future collaborative opportunities.

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Appendix A:

ABOUT the Canadian Association of Paediatric Health Centres (CAPHC)

CAPHC's national priorities and areas of focus include:

- Health Promotion
- Injury & Illness Prevention
- Health Services & Human Resources
- Family Centered Care and
- Transition & Alternate Models of Care Delivery

The following priorities have also been identified as “cross cutting themes” in all priority areas:

- Research & Evaluation
- Knowledge Translation/Knowledge Transfer
- Networking/Connectivity
- Promotion of the emergence of new collaborative models and strategies for delivering improved health services to children and youth and
- Promoting optimal health care services across the continuum of care for all children and youth

CAPHC's Annual Meeting:

CAPHC's Annual Meeting attracts multi-disciplinary health professionals from across Canada providing a forum for individuals to expand their professional development through a variety of networking, education and priority setting opportunities.

CAPHC is committed to leveraging multi-disciplinary, Pan-Canadian child and youth health networks. The following national & regional health networks established official linkages with CAPHC at our Annual Meeting in June 2003 in Calgary:

- Canadian Child Health Clinician Scientist Program(CCHCSP)
- Health Canada/CAPHC Multi-Stakeholder Patient Safety Task Force
- Canadian Perinatal Programs Coalition
- National Network on Cultural Competence in Paediatric Health Care
- Canadian Family Advisory Network
- National Child & Youth Health Network Consortium
- National Paediatric Patient Satisfaction Survey Working Group (OHA, Smaller World/NRC)

Since CAPHC's 2003 Annual Meeting, new networking and connectivity opportunities have been established with the following networks and organizations:

- Centre for Childhood Disability Research (CanChild)
- Child and Adolescent Health Research-Networking for Growth (CAHR-HG)
- Child & Youth Homecare Network (CYHN)
- Centre for Healthcare Innovation and Improvement (CHli)
- Council for Canadian Child Health Research
- Canadian Neonatal Network (CNN)
- Canadian Perinatal Network (CPN)
- Canadian Perinatal Surgery Network (CAPSNET)
- Canadian Pediatric Critical Care Network
- Canadian Rehabilitation Network (inaugural meeting, November 7, 2004).