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What's New?

- Representatives of the 19 WCWL Partners, at the March 15 and 16 meetings in Calgary, approved a final report, including recommendations pertaining to future activities in this field.
- The WCWL Final Report was sent to the Health Transition Fund on March 31. It consists of two volumes: the first (35 pages) includes the findings, conclusions, and recommendations; the second (450 pages) has a number of appendices.
- Dissemination of the findings and recommendations will begin on May 1, 2001 with a media release and distribution of the final report. Both volumes will be available on the project website (www.wcwl.org).
- HTF will conduct a series of workshops to highlight findings and lessons learned from the projects it has funded. WCWL will participate in the conferences in Richmond, BC, Winnipeg, MB, and Moncton, NB.

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Whither WCWL?

WCWL was conceived at a meeting in Regina in May 1998 and financial support from the Health Transition Fund was announced in September. Early in 1999, the project began to take shape. Background papers were written, clinical panels were established, and host

regional health authorities were identified. Panels met for the first time in October 1999 and by July 2000 a set of beta prioritization tools was endorsed by the Partnership. Instrument refinement, specifically validity and reliability testing, has been initiated. Thereafter, three discussion papers were drafted, public opinion focus groups were conducted, and regional health authorities were surveyed on the question of implementation. All of the above are described in the project final report.

The dissemination period will begin with release of the final report in May and will end in September. We anticipate publishing a series of papers on our work and making presentations to potential users of the tools as well as others doing development work.

While the HTF support ends in September, a significant research agenda remains. Over the spring and summer months, the Partnership will turn its attention to finding support to refine and extend the work completed to date.

Thanks to the Following...

Many times over the past two years I have commented on the valued participation from the partners and the clinicians who have helped with the development and testing of the tools.

At this point, I would like to acknowledge and thank publicly the staff and associates who have worked extremely hard over the past couple of years to help us achieve our project goals.

Prior to coming to WCWL, **Dr. David Hadorn** had worked in this field in the USA and New Zealand. He served as our research director, co-chaired the five clinical panels, advised the Steering Committee, and was responsible for much of the original written work submitted for publication. David is situated in Victoria.

Administrative support of the highest quality was provided by **Ms. Katerina Carastathis** in the project management office at the University of Alberta.

Based in Calgary, **Ms. Helen Roman Smith** provided effective administrative and research support to many of our activities including literature reviews and the environmental scan of regional health authorities. **Dr. Barbara Conner-Spady** joined the project team in Edmonton and assisted with the development of the reliability and validity protocols. She has an on-going role with the phase 2 pilot validity projects. From her base in Winnipeg, **Ms. Elaine Dunn** provided methodological and administrative support to validity and reliability testing, played a key role in the development of the final report and will continue to support our publication activity and phase two pilots.

We have been fortunate to have **Dr. Claudia Sanmartin** associated with the project as a writer. Based in Ottawa, Claudia has written extensively on this subject matter; she drafted two of our discussion papers and coauthored the third. **Mr. Steven Lewis** has been with the project since its conception and served on the Steering Committee while he was the CEO of HSURC. Situated in Saskatoon, he is the primary author of our discussion paper on cross treatment and service prioritization issues, and is an advisor the project. The three discussion papers are being prepared for publication.

Review and synthesis of the literature was conducted by a team of associates under the supervision of Dr. David Hadorn. **Ms. Cheryl Martin** (Carrollton, TX) and **Ms. Annmarie Banchy** (Hakalua, HI) were the principal writers. Six literature reviews are included in appendix to the final report.

Methodological support during the prioritization tool development and testing process was provided by a number of associates based in Edmonton. **Dr. N.G.N. Prasad** furnished statistical support; **Ms. Anne Marie Pedersen** coordinated the collection and transfer of information from the pilot sites; and **Ms. Carolyn Nilsson** did the medical coding of prioritization forms.

Support from within the WCWL Partner regional health authorities was essential for the successful completion of pilot testing. The following deserve recognition for their assistance: **Ms. Lise Caouette** in Edmonton; **Ms. Suzanne Gagnon** in Winnipeg; **Dr. Heather Hadjistavropoulos** in Regina; **Ms. Nellie Hariri** and **Ms. Mary Nolletti** in Vancouver; **Ms. Lorraine Skene** in Saskatoon; **Ms. Rita Sullivan** in Victoria; and **Ms. Barbara Young** in Calgary.

As one of our project management goals was transparency, we decided early in the process to build a website at www.wcwl.org and keep it up-to-date. Our project

website, newsletter, and logo were designed by **Ms. Corinne Cowell** in Calgary. Media relations was handled by **Mr. Sheridan McVean** of the Calgary office of Hill and Knowlton Canada.

Ms. Erin Roulston and **Mr. Lang McGilp** of Ipsos-Reid Corporation and **Mr. Don Schurman** of TurnKey Management Consulting were largely responsible for the public opinion project and the environmental scan, respectively.

In recognition of their contribution as speakers at WCWL Partners' meetings and their support in many other ways, sincere thanks are offered to **Dr. J. Stewart McMillan** in Regina, **Dr. David Naylor** and **Dr. Jack Williams** in Toronto, and Professor John Yates in Birmingham, UK.

Finally, the WCWL Partners gratefully acknowledge financial support by Health Canada's **Health Transition Fund**, without which this unique project would not have been possible.

Upcoming Events

- Apr 5-6 — Weighting the Wait Conference, Melbourne, Australia
- Apr 12 — Checklist (waitlist software) Presentation, Edmonton, Alberta
- May 1 — WCWL Final Report Media Release, Edmonton, Alberta
- May 7-8 — HTF Dissemination Workshop, Winnipeg, Manitoba
- May 27-28 — HTF Dissemination Workshop, Vancouver, British Columbia
- June 18-19 — HTF Dissemination Workshop, Moncton, New Brunswick

UPDATE

WESTERN CANADA WAITING LIST PROJECT

THE UPDATE is the monthly newsletter of the Western Canada Waiting List Project. It is published at the Department of Public Health Sciences, 13-103 Clinical Sciences Building, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T6G 2G3. For more information, please contact John McGurran, Project Director, at 780-492-2647 or john.mcgurran@ualberta.ca visit our website at <http://www.wcwl.org>

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