

National Prevention Strategy Group

Location: Teleconference Meeting hosted by SickKids Hospital.

Date: December 16, 2011

Attendance: Gail McVey (Host/Chair, SickKids), Katie Walker (SickKids), Manuela Ferrari (SickKids), Heather Harrison (SickKids), Sari Simkins (Toronto), Jenny Godley (U of Calgary), Shelly Russell-Mayhew (U of Calgary), Elaine Murkin (Ottawa Public Health), Lesley Andrade (Sudbury and Region Health Unit), Jess Haines (U of Guelph), Kiera Ishmael (Children and Women's Hospital), Karen DeGagne (T-Bay, ED program), Erika Di Ruggerio (CIHR), Mary Forhan (McMaster University), Marie-Claude Paquette (Ministry, Veronique Provencher (U of Laval, Queb City), Leigh Underhill (Dairy Farmers of Canada), Rena Mendelson (Ryerson U), Heather Manson (Public Health Ontario), Mary Fodor O'Brien (Public Health Ontario).

Regrets: Catherine Birken (SickKids), Natalie Beausoleil (Memorial U, NFLD), Joanne Gusella (IWK, Halifax), Nancy Malcolm-Sharratt (Health and Wellness, PEI), Bonnie Hostrawser (PHAC).

With the agreement of the group, Gail described and solicited input about two areas of research including a) social ecological intervention research and b) indicators of health.

- *Social ecological intervention research:* We agreed to select a theoretical model perhaps the Bronfenbrenner model (see last page of document) and/or related ones such as social/contextual model, public health model, and graphically map out/populate the various layers of the model with the various initiatives that are currently underway across Canada (in research, practice and policy). We will use this model/map to steer our ongoing discussions about research possibilities. Gail will be in touch with the members on the call to solicit a description of relevant work that can be added to the model. Much of the ecologically-based research has been conducted in the school setting (McVey, Haines, Piran). There is some interest and/or "trains in motion" with respect to reaching out to families (Haines), adults in the workplace environment (Forhan), weight bias awareness with adult influencers (Forhan, McVey/LENS team), pre-school children/NutriSTEP (Beyers, Andrade) to name a few.
- *Indicators of health.* One idea discussed was to select and match indicators to the different layers of the ecological model. There was a recommendation to include quality of life/well-being as an indicator of health (Russell-Mayhew). We may want to use developmental assets (sense of belonging/connectedness, relationship with peers/family, general resiliency). One proposed area of research is to conduct longitudinal research linking resiliency building indicators to child health outcomes (McVey). Another idea mentioned was to include the Children's Assessment of Participation and Enjoyment

(CAPE) and Preferences for Activities of Children (PAC) (Forhan). Jenny Godley mentioned her proposed plans to conduct social network analysis to inform the process behind successful inter-disciplinary/cross-sector partnerships necessary for intervention work. Gail will be in touch with the group members to inquire about individual permission/consent (once REB approval is obtained) to administer surveys that solicit details of our connections to each other. Jenny is interested also to examine the national data sets to determine if there is room for expansion in terms of health indicators. Jenny mentioned that there is a Canadian Health Service Survey underway which is tracking correlates of BMI. Erica agreed to share with Jenny additional survey work that is underway. Heather Manson mentioned that the Public Health Ontario Agency is conducting a child and youth indicator report for Ontario – and that the timing aligns well with our proposed group discussions on the topic. It was recommended also that we consider tracking which disciplines are driving which work and what are the philosophies/assumptions that may be steering that work (is there a body of knowledge that is being created, are there assumptions that are being perpetuated).

- The group recommended that we continue to meet on a monthly basis for now. Gail will send out a notice for the next call. Gail will solicit the expertise of Manuela and Kiera in terms of software to consider for creating our graphical representation of an ecological model. Once a template is ready, Gail will send out a notice asking members to populate the model with the various initiatives that are currently underway (or under review) including projects related to research, practice and/or policy.



