

# *Nova Scotia Physiotherapy Advisory Group*

**NSPAG Meeting – Sept. 11, 2009 8:30 – 10:30 AM**

## **Meeting Minutes**

**Present:** L. Langley, T. Dutton (Chair), K. Grosweiner, C. King, A. Fenety, D. Titus, C. James (recorder), D. Purcell, S. Rennie, R. Tresidder

**Regrets:** S. Anderson, A. Read, J. Ross, K. Taylor,

### **Item #1 Review of Last Meeting Minutes**

There were no questions arising from the June minutes.

It was agreed that Tanya Dutton would act as chair, and Christine James would act as recorder.

### **Item #2 NSPAG Priorities**

At the last meeting, two priorities were identified for NSPAG attention: *Interdisciplinary Projects* and *Enabling PTs to be Influential Leaders*. Action plans are now required for each project.

#### Priority #1: Raising the Physiotherapy Profile in Nova Scotia for Interprofessional Client-Centred Care

Regarding existing projects, Denise Titus confirmed that the status of the Diabetic Education Clinics had not changed (i.e., some are using physiotherapy expertise and some are not, depending on region). NSPA noted that they had recently joined the Nova Scotia Alliance for Healthy Eating and Physical Activity as part of their efforts to become involved in interdisciplinary projects.

#### *Clarification of intent*

- The purpose of this priority is to A) Increase physiotherapy involvement in interdisciplinary projects and B) raise the profile of physiotherapy through participation in a variety of Nova Scotia health initiatives

#### *Desired Outcome*

- The desired outcome is that it becomes second nature for any health and wellness initiative in Nova Scotia to want, and seek, physiotherapy involvement in the initiative.

#### *Getting to the Outcome*

- Scope of Practice Issues: We need to ensure a better understanding of physiotherapy scope of practice externally, and have a better understanding of other professions' scopes internally. It was agreed that the key to understanding scopes of practice is to work together on projects.
  - Educational institutions may have a role to play. Can we get onto the medical curriculum? It was agreed that physiotherapy students learn more about other professions' scopes than those other professions learn about us.

- Anne Fenety cited the workshops that Nurses do across NS on Scope of Practice. Perhaps we could have them incorporate a description of phyiotherapy into these workshops?
- Physiotherapy Briefings for Physicians was cited as an excellent current initiative. Could this idea be expanded to be relevant to other professions?
- Professional Confidence Issues: We need to equip our members with the skills, tools and resources to be willing and able to participate at the table.
  - Need workshops on:
    - leadership, negotiating, and influencing skills
    - How to work in a team
    - Behaviour / culture Change preparedness

Is there potentially a role for the college in mandating / encouraging participation in such courses? Can we get employers to recognize participation in leadership courses as a desired skill in employees?
  - Generational issue: younger PTs do not seem to struggle with the confidence / authority issues that older PTs struggle with
- Policy Level Issues: While fostering capacity within the profession, we need to forge ahead with participation at the policy development level wherever possible.
  - We need an inventory of members' areas of expertise. This is necessary in order to identify potential candidates to participate in health initiatives that are brought to our attention (speakers bureau idea)
  - We need an inventory of where we are currently participating, and where we could potentially participate in the future

*Actions / Next Steps*

Action	Who?	By when?
Education of Physicians regarding the role of physiotherapists – currently a project underway, involving Anne Fenety and Linda Langley.	Linda, Anne, Denise	Ongoing project. Will have status report for next NSPAG meeting
Identify other groups (Health, Wellness) to target for inclusion in our discussions	All	For discussion at next meeting; generate list for November 2009
Inventory of Initiatives:		
a) Initiatives that physiotherapists are currently involved with	Randy	October 2009
b) Initiatives that physiotherapists are NOT currently involved with but should/could be	Tanya	October 2009

Once identified, we will review the lists and determine priorities	All	October 2009
Create database of physiotherapists who would be willing to represent us at various initiatives. Would need to capture areas of expertise as well as leadership interest	Randy	October 2009
NSPA and NSCP representatives to take requests forward for incorporation of leadership and behaviour change into AGM programming	Kate Randy	Report at October Meeting

**Item #3 Next meeting**

Will focus on development of action plan for priority #2, as well as action items identified above.

Next meeting dates:

- Friday October 16, 8:30 AM
- Friday November 20, 8:30 AM