

For Immediate Release.....

From: Dr. Wendy MacCaull

Location: StFX Centre for Logic and Information, Antigonish, NS

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MacCaull/MacIsaac Get NSHRF to support Team Development; MacIsaac Presents Poster in Edmonton

Dr. Wendy MacCaull's ACOA Atlantic Innovation Fund (AIF) funded project, "Building Decision-support through Dynamic Workflow for Health Care," recently learned that they have received a NSHRF grant of \$10,000.00 entitled "Creating a seamless, integrated continuum of care for our senior population" to augment the over arching project. MacCaull, and Jane MacIsaac, Manager of Seniors Care for GASHA, were the the principle applicants while Dr. Mary Gorman, geriatrician and medical lead for the Geriatric Assessment Clinic and the Geriatric Assessment and Treatment Unit at St. Martha's Hospital and Madonna MacDonald, VP of GASHA, signed on as partners to the proposal.

"The purpose of this grant," said MacCaull "is to support team and proposal development for the purpose of strengthening current information/data management for GASHA's new seniors program. This will be a collaboration of a team of providers involved in seniors' health care as well as subject matter experts in the information management field from StFX, to write and submit a grant proposal to research, develop, field test and evaluate a tracking and monitoring system for new seniors' health service."

"GASHA has established a new service area in seniors' health, entitled the Wellness Initiative for Seniors Health (WISH)," explained Jane MacIsaac from GASHA. "This new area is in response to an aging population and ongoing pressures on the health care system," she said. "The aim of the service," continued MacIsaac, "is to create a seamless, integrated continuum of care for our senior population that improves accessibility to service across the district, provides timely intervention as needed and keeps service at the community level."

MacIsaac and a colleague from GASHA, Bethany McCormick, presented the new program in a poster presentation to the "Leaders in Rehab Conference 2009", held in Edmonton from March 19-20th. The model incorporates a broad range of seniors health services aimed at providing the right care to the right people in the right place.

"The implementation of advanced technology concurrently with the new service can eventually be integrated with the provincial Electronic Health Record (EHR system)," said MacIsaac, "enhancing communication among all associated caregivers and the patient, and providing data for the evaluation of the processes allowing for early intervention, thereby improving the level of care and ultimately outcomes." "This is another example," said MacCaull, "of the quality of research that can be accomplished through a multi-disciplinary collaboration of experts and specialists in their fields."