



## **Canadian Social Workers in Hemophilia Care (CSWHC) Report to AHCDC – May 2010**

### **MEMBERSHIP:**

Co-chairpersons: Connie Shrubsole and Clarke Dale  
Past co-chairperson: Linda Waterhouse

We currently have twenty social workers in Hemophilia/Bleeding Disorders clinics across the country. Typically, social workers are only assigned 0.1 FTE (one half day/week) to bleeding disorders. Since our last meeting in May 2009, we have seen continued stability within the social work group, with only 3 new members this year.

With the much appreciated support of the CHS and the supporting pharmas, the CSWHC group was able to meet at Rendezvous in Ottawa, May 2009. We had 13 social workers in attendance for a very productive meeting, allowing us to collaborate face-to-face, share resources and knowledge, and move forward on projects deemed valuable by the group. The ability to meet annually has been a key factor in developing the CSWHC as a group, and we are enthusiastically preparing for another fruitful meeting in St John's in May 10.

### **CSWHC and CHS:**

Social workers have contributed articles to Hemophilia Today, reporting on our meeting, and on projects of interest to the bleeding disorders community.

Social work has representation on several CHS committees and initiative including the Programme Committee, National Standards of Care Committee, Medical Symposium Planning Committee, Rare Bleeding Disorders and Inhibitors workshops. Social Work has also contributed to the Transition Project, the revision of All About Hemophilia, and the School Video, and the New Team Workshop, the social work section of the CHS website, as well as a new initiative – Parents Empowering Parents (see below).

Linda Waterhouse was presented with an award of Appreciation at the CHS Awards Night in November 09.

## **ON-GOING PROJECTS:**

Social work is very proud and excited to take a leadership role in the roll out of the Parents Empowering Parents (PEP) program - a new CHS initiative to provide much needed support for parents of children with bleeding disorders. Parent leaders, nurses and social workers from across the country attended a weekend training session in October 09, and at this juncture there are 4 PEP weekends planned in 4 regions across the country. The BC/Alberta weekend runs Mar 26-28, Sask/Man on April 30-May 1, and the Atlantic provinces and Ontario run June 4-6. Thanks is due to both CHS and Bayer for support for this project.

The social work group continues to work on production of an Orientation Manual, an effort designed to address the issue of high turnover in social workers across the country.

This manual includes a completed Standards of Practice and a Psychosocial Assessment Template, and we continue to work on a Social Work Brochure, Resources and other information as deemed valuable.

We are also focusing attention on ways to stay connected to share resources and expertise between meetings, examining such avenues as a social work Listserv or an intranet on the CHS social work site.

Across the country, social workers are also involved in local initiatives for their Bleeding Disorders communities, including research on Hemophilia and ADD/ADHD, adherence research, needle projects and dealing with chronic illness.

Again, may we note our appreciation to CHS for the support provided to the CSWHC.

Respectfully submitted by  
Connie Shrubsole and Clarke Dale  
Co-chairs, CSWHC