

# REGIONAL ONCOLOGY NURSING COUNCIL OF SOUTHEASTERN ONTARIO

## MEETING HIGHLIGHTS NOVEMBER 2003

### RONC-SEO MEMBERSHIP

Two new members were welcomed:

1. Carla Burr, NP with the Canadian Armed Forces
2. Cathy Cross – CNO, Corrections Canada

Guest: Mr. Harry Milne, London Regional Cancer Centre was a guest at the November 24, 2003 meeting.

### PROGRESS

The chair gave an overview of the RONC presentation at the October **CANO conference**. The session was well attended and had quite a lot of interest in the council.

Brenda Weir (Northumberland Hills Hospital) did a poster presentation at the 3-day **OHA conference** in November. There were over 200 entries and the council's poster was selected. The poster itself is quite large and Brenda is getting a quote to make the poster more condensed so the council can use it.

Linda Robb Blenderman (Chair-RONC-SEO) did a presentation on RONC for the **Provincial Oncology Nursing Rounds** on Monday, November 24, 2004.

The proposal of the **learning needs survey** and the survey itself is almost complete. The College of Nurses has been contacted to find out how many nurses were in the region – out of the 6,000 and some only 100 were palliative and oncology nurses. It is very difficult to get proper numbers because of the extent of our region. Diane Batchelor (PI) was wondering because of every region was represented at the council, would the representatives be willing to get a list of names of the nurses and distribute within their region and agency.

The issue around surveying Licensed Practical Nurses was discussed. LPNs work for many institutions and community care agencies. LPNs are often dealing with cancer patients in the community. At this time there is no representation of Licensed Practical Nurses on the council. It was noted that the CANO Standards does not address Licensed Practical Nurses. Cathy Lyle (PCCC St. Mary's of the Lake) suggests the council look at the Licensed Practical Nurses' educational needs for long term care facilities at a later date. Brenda Weir (Northumberland Hills Hospital) suggested that the council contact the Licensed Practical Nurses Association to see what they are doing and share what the council is doing.

Information would be brought back to the council and be reflective of all nurses.

The issue on how this survey is going to be funded was addressed. Looking at two options:

1. Sigma Feta T Fellowship. The deadline for submissions is December 1st. This would require restructuring the proposal.
2. Several drug companies offer an education grant – each have their own process for distributing the monies.

Next step are for representatives from the council evaluate the survey for readability; usability, appropriate questions, additional questions needed, user friendly.

### REGIONAL HOSPICE PALLIATIVE CARE PLANNING COMMITTEE

Linda Robb Blenderman, as chair of the council was invited to attend the September meeting of the Regional Hospice Palliative Care Planning Committee. This committee's goals are to role out the Palliative Care Integration Project throughout the region. The committee is well represented with members of the council. The Regional Palliative Care Integration

Project is an excellent opportunity for the council to support Evidence-Based Practice.

## SEO DISTRICT HEALTH COUNCIL PALLIATIVE CARE MEETING

Linda Robb Blenderman as Clinical Practice Leader, Oncology for the Regional Cancer Program was invited to attend the SEO District Health Council Palliative Care Meeting. The outcome of the meeting was long term planning is needed for palliative care. There are 2 district health councils in the region. Dr. Deb Dudgeon and Dr. Anne Smith are the representatives for the KFL&A area.

## REGIONAL CANCER ADVISORY COMMITTEE (RCAC)

- Helen Angus, Director, Cancer Quality Council of Ontario Secretariat gave a presentation "*Strengthening the Quality of Cancer Services in Ontario*". The book is available at KRCC for anyone wishing to read it. Esther Green (CNO-CCO) co-authored an entire chapter on Nursing.
- There will be an emphasis on prevention and screening for CCO.
- Dr. Alan Hudson (CEO, Cancer Care Ontario) will be attending the next RCAC meeting on December 17, 2003. This meeting is open to anyone who would like to attend.
- Linda Robb Blenderman (Chair, RONC-SEO) has been asked to present on the RONC-SEO at the RCAC meeting on December 6. Other presentations will include: Palliative Care, Cancer Survivors, Supportive Care

Needs, Prevention and Screening.

## TELEPHONE PRACTICE-SYMPTOM MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES UPDATE

Linda Robb Blenderman (Clinical Practice Leader, Oncology) attended a meeting on November 14th in Toronto regarding the Telephone Symptom Management guidelines. The final changes are to be made by Friday, November 28th, 2003. Guidelines will be put on the CCO website. There has been discussion with CCO that a nursing link be put on the website. There are 11 telephone practice guidelines to date; others are being developed (e.g. Central Venous Access Devices for January 2004).

## PREVENTION/SCREENING STRATEGIC PLANNING MEETING

Linda Robb Blenderman (Clinical Practice Leader, Oncology) has been invited to attend a meeting on Thursday, November 27, 2003 in Belleville. Lori Van Manen (Cancer Genetics) is also attending. CCO has a provincial Prevention and Screening Council to explore the possibilities of developing a regional council.

## QUEEN'S SCHOOL OF NURSING CANDIDACY REVIEW

Linda Robb Blenderman (Clinical Practice Leader, Oncology) has been invited to attend a candidacy review of the collaborate program between St. Lawrence College and Queen's University.

## CORRECTION SERVICES OF CANADA ACCREDITATION

Linda Robb Blenderman (Clinical Practice Leader, Oncology) is going to an information session RE: Correction Services of Canada Health Services accreditation. This is the first time Corrections Canada are having their hospital facilities accredited.

## FORMALIZING THE NAME OF THE COUNCIL

The chair brought up the issue of formalizing the council's name. Although this council is the only council in Ontario it represents five counties. Different groups define their district in different ways – OHA defines Northumberland district as South Eastern Ontario. There are two district health councils in the region. Diane Batchelor (APN, Pain and Symptom Management) made a motion to call the council *Regional Oncology Nursing Council of Southeastern Ontario*. Karen Burrows (Perth/Smiths Falls) seconded the motion.

## ANNUAL REPORT

It was suggested that an annual report be developed and distributed widely. The report would go to the Vice President, Regional Cancer Program (Dr. A. Smith), Chief Nursing Officer-CCO (Esther Green), RCAC Chair Helen Cooper) and as well be widely distributed to all regional healthcare agencies.

## 2004 Action Plan Working Groups

Members of the council gave a list of their priorities. A working group will review and prioritize.

