

Continuing Care and Clinical Service Development News

August 2006

Focusing on clients with complex psychosocial needs

Improving the management and better meeting the needs of clients with complex psychosocial needs was the focus of an initial workshop held in June for interested participants from HARP-CDM.

Steve Gilbert from the Northern Alliance Suicide and Self-harm Prevention Program (NASSP), and Byron Trevascus and Cathy Moore from The Cottage at St Vincent's Health were guest presenters.

Following these enlightening presentations, group discussion raised the following themes:

- Defining the target group and meeting their needs
- Interface with hospital emergency departments, CATT, mental health services, GPs
- Staff development, support and supervision
- Ensuring HARP-CDM is not a substitute for usual care

The group flagged several items for action:

- To establish a psychosocial working group to look at:
 - Defining the target group: complex psychosocial needs versus chronic illness with anxiety and or depression overlay

- Client engagement and consent
- Staff development needs, support and supervision
- Policies and procedures for managing people with complex psychosocial needs
- To assist with enhancing the HARP-CDM Guidelines
- Act as client advocates across the lifespan as needs vary across health services
- Assessment criteria
- Capacity building
- Links with usual care including mental health services, GPs etc.

- Working group may consist of specialist subgroups where additional delegates may be brought in to assist with addressing specific service development needs

- Provide regular updates to the broader HARP-CDM group for comments/feedback

- Forum in early November 2006 to address some of the discussion points raised on 23rd June.

Consider inviting a guest speaker(s) to facilitate ongoing service system development.

Contact Michelle Kotis on 9096 1334 or email michelle.kotis@dhs.vic.gov.au for more information.



Introducing Michelle Kotis

Michelle joined the CC&CSD in the Health Independence Programs (HIP) Unit in February this year as a Senior Project Officer working with HARP-CDM.

She is a speech pathologist with a special interest in stroke rehabilitation and aged care.

Michelle's experience includes a stint in Ireland where undertook a Masters of Philosophy in Linguistics at Trinity College with a special area of study in language in dementia.

She has also completed a Master of Public Health with a focus on chronic disease management, health reform and the interface between hospital and the community.

Prior to joining the Department Michelle worked with the St Vincent's HARP-CDM project. She joined the department to further her interest in working on policy development.

To date, Michelle has found her experience rewarding and challenging as she now works on the funding and policy development side of the health service system.

Michelle enjoys the company of nine year olds – particularly her son Andrew and has bravely confessed to being a passionate Carlton supporter.

HIV community grants 2006-07 Call for submissions

Metropolitan Health and Aged Care Services is seeking applications from Victorian organisations for one-off non-recurrent funding for projects or initiatives that aim to improve the care and treatment of people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) in the community.

In particular, agencies are encouraged to develop and submit proposals that aim to:

- Improve the delivery of services to PLWHA in the community through the application and evaluation of new or existing practices to improve outcomes for health service clients (PLWHA)
- Decrease inappropriate variations in care
- Address the education and training needs of people working with PLWHA particularly in the areas of mental health, drug and alcohol, accommodation services and cultural and linguistic diversity (CALD).

Other projects that target the needs of PLWHA and can demonstrate originality and innovation will be favourably considered.

The funding is open to all Victorian community-based agencies that have regular involvement in the care or treatment of PLWHA in the community. This may include agencies whose core business is not HIV services (e.g. mental health services, district nursing, community health).

The total amount of funds available is \$500,000 and grants will be limited to a maximum of \$100,000 (including GST) for an individual project.

HIV Community Grants will NOT be offered in 2007-08.

A review of the Victorian HIV Service at The Alfred was recently completed. The review aimed to:

1. Clarify the roles and responsibilities of the Victorian HIV Service at The Alfred.
2. Identify gaps in HIV services currently provided by The Alfred.
3. Make recommendations to better meet service demand in future years.

An outcome of the review was the identification of increased pressures being experienced by community organisations due to the shift in the treatment and care of PLWHA from the acute to the community sector. In addition, it was recognised that there is a need for a more co-ordinated and strategic approach to the provision of HIV services in Victoria. In September 2006, the Department will commence work on developing a coordinated state-wide model for the provision of HIV services. It is anticipated that this work will be completed by April 2007 and will inform the department on the allocation of future funding, with the aim of addressing identified service gaps.

Detailed guidelines and an application form are available at the DHS website: www.health.vic.gov.au/hivaids/ or from Gillian Smith, telephone 9096 1333 or email: gillian.smith@dhs.vic.gov.au.

The closing date for applications is 5pm Friday 11 August 2006.

Post Acute Care program review news

The PAC review consumer consultation report now available on the web and can be found at www.health.vic.gov.au/pac/review.htm

The report records the views and suggestions of participants involved in an extensive consultation process through a series of regional consultation forums. The information contained in the report will inform the department in the development of a plan to further progress the review of PAC.

For further queries contact Carol Pyke on 9096 1335 or email carol.pyke@dhs.vic.gov.au

Secondment opportunity

A secondment opportunity has become available within the Health Independence Programs (HIP) Unit of the Continuing Care and Clinical Service Development Section.

This role will primarily focus on the implementation of a comprehensive assessment tool and the associated processes required to successfully embed this practice within the health service system.

This opportunity is available on a full time or part time basis.

For further information and a copy of the position description please contact Susan Race on 9096 1331 or at susan.race@dhs.vic.gov.au.

Kids with asthma under the HARP-CDM spotlight

The Victorian Paediatric Asthma Collaborative, a voluntary alliance consisting of various representatives from existing HARP-CDM services with a paediatric asthma focus, instigated a HARP-CDM paediatric asthma planning day in June.

The purpose of the day was to commence discussion and work around developing a paediatric asthma management model within the HARP-CDM guidelines. In essence, HARP-CDM services identify clients at risk of hospitalisation and aim to minimise hospital admission through care coordination and linking into appropriate services.

Planning day participants were from HARP-CDM services, services which link to HARP-CDM services and those who see the benefits in developing such links. With 66 participants attending, such a strong interest highlights the need for further work in this area.

Presenters included:

- Associate Professor Colin Robertson, Acting Director Respiratory Medicine, The Royal Children's Hospital and Dr David Armstrong, Paediatric Respiratory Physician, Southern Health presented an overview of the current evidence base and models implemented at their respective services.
- Gary Irving, Services Manager, The Asthma Foundation of Victoria, Rachel Overall, Practice Capacity Consultant, General Practice Divisions - Victoria and Anna Berkelmans, Vice President of Australian Asthma and Respiratory Educators Association provided an overview of the role of their respective organisations and implications for the developing of a management model.

Following the presentations small groups discussed principles for consideration in developing a model:

- collaboration
- service delivery
- eligibility criteria
- guidelines and differences in current guidelines
- key stakeholders

Key themes included:

- access and equity
- best practice
- communication
- looking at workforce capacity and how the model could best utilise available resources
- compliance of clients with asthma

A framework for the model will be developed over the coming months and the Victorian Paediatric Asthma Collaborative will convene again in early August to further develop the principles for paediatric asthma management in the context of HARP-CDM. A paediatric asthma update is planned for later this year.

For further information please contact [Caroline Frankland](mailto:caroline.frankland@dhs.vic.gov.au) on 9606 1306 or caroline.frankland@dhs.vic.gov.au

Update on the Victorian Paediatric Rehabilitation Service

The Victorian Paediatric Rehabilitation Service provides specialist rehabilitation for children and teenagers who need developmentally appropriate, time-limited, goal-focussed multidisciplinary rehabilitation. Established in 2005-06, its aim is to provide:

- Child-and-adolescent-centred and family-focused clinical care
- Evidence-based, best practice
- Integrated continuum of care from hospital to community
- Appropriate linkages with other services

The service itself is still growing and developing. \$1.2 million seeding funding in 2005-06 enabled the establishment of initial services, and with a further \$2 million provided in the 2006-07 budget, the service will comprise:

- 10 rehabilitation beds and ambulatory care at Royal Children's Hospital
- 2 rehabilitation beds and ambulatory care at Southern Health
- Seed funding for ambulatory services to be piloted at Eastern Health and Bendigo Health Care Group.

A Reference Group of experts and stakeholders in the area is providing advice and input regarding the implementation of the service, with a Model of Care Working Group focusing on options for ongoing development.