

**May 26, 2008
CSMC meeting
from 7:30-8:30pm at
820 Como Cres.**

Present: Sandra Gervais, Ileana, Donna Todd, Julia D, Gina, Mary

Agenda:

1) Midwifery Practice updates:

OVM: Saw little piece on CTV news. Non-offensive, which is good. Keep up with letters and media. QC is not seeming too concerned right now so we should keep more letters going and get more media attention to keep the pressure on so they don't think the issue will go away quietly.

MCO: Trying to get priv at General, sent letters and emails and no response still. Midwives are getting packages ready to apply at OH, hiring new registrant. Locum as she's taking position for midwife taking leave of absence. They are not asking for CSMC help yet. They will start talking to MPPs. She thinks they will need to help in the future. The NR can only work because someone else is taking leave.

Donna relayed a story about her friend who has to deliver at the Civic with and OB because the midwives don't have OH priv and the Montfort isn't equipped for the possible complications with the birth.

Donna suggested a little fact sheet/poster to inform people about why hospital privileges are important.
(issues/facts both)

Can someone put together this fact sheet? Gina will do the fact sheet with Donna's help.

MGO: nothing, status quo.

STLVM: nothing to report

Sages-Femmes PR: nothing to report

Madawaska Valley Midwives: nothing to report

LHIN update: Sheila hasn't been to any meetings. She's left phone messages and has had no communication with them. She is thinking about going there face to face to find out what is going on.

Kathleen tried to get in touch with Dr Cushman and that Sheila is involved on paper, but nothing is going on yet.

Letter Writing Campaign update (OVM):

*** Deadline extended to benefit from media attention related to the annual picnic!**

Please continue to send your letters (let us know if you need the info again) AND let us know when you have sent in your letters (thanks to those who have already let us know that they have sent in their letters!).

Kathleen said that she spoke with someone at Dr. Legault's office and they knew of the letters but the impact is still unsure. The impression is that he is not keeping the letters.

Kathleen will try to get in touch with Dr Legault and the others on the letter writing list to follow.

Donna suggested that the benefactors of the birthing unit could have letters sent to them as well to let them know what is going on.

Thanks to Gina Merlin, the CTV NEWSTEAM came to the picnic and interviewed Miriam OBrien, Sheila McIntyre and took a bunch of video footage, including the youngest and oldest attendees at the picnic, wearing their "Caught by a Midwife" onesies.

That was great!

A press release was sent to several media outlets, prior to the picnic, and included info about the picnic tied in with the Queensway-Carleton privileges issue. It was sent to The Sun, Citizen, CTV/CJOH and A-Channel. Also to PEN (Peace Environment News). The event listing was sent to all the above, as well as OttawaKiosk.com, OttawaStart, Runge and Metroland publications (community newspapers) including Nepean This Week, Nepean Weekender, Barrhaven This Week, etc. Also to Meetups.com on the Groovy Mom's meetup.

An example of the press release:

May 21, 2008

Celebrating birth choices at the Annual Midwives Picnic

Posted by Gina Merlin Subscribe to the [OttawaStart RSS Feed](#) for instant news updates.

Annual Midwifery Picnic - Consumers Supporting Midwifery Care. May 25th at 11:00 to 2:00 p.m. at the Trolley Station in Britannia Park. Bring a picnic, enjoy family fun, refreshments and cake. Rain or shine. Free parking. www.midwiferyconsumers.org

Consumers Supporting Midwifery Care (CSMC) would like to invite journalists and photographers to join our families and midwives as we celebrate together at the annual Midwifery Picnic this Sunday.

Journalists will find a wealth of resources and interview opportunities with consumers and purveyors of midwifery care in Ottawa and surrounding area – all in one place at this annual celebration at Britannia Park Trolley Station on Sunday, May 25th from 11:00 – 2:00 p.m. We hope to welcome you there!

Photography opportunities will be excellent at this rain-or-shine family fun event.

There are a few newsworthy angles on midwifery with impact in the Ottawa region:

1. LETTER CAMPAIGN EXTENDED: CSMC's letter-writing campaign to encourage authorities at the Queensway Carleton hospital to reconsider the current cap on midwives able to serve clients at the hospital has been extended. Gaining steam since May 5th, it is now extended to include the upcoming picnic.
2. PEOPLE POWERED: Cases such as the community-led establishment of a midwifery clinic in Belleville (Quinte) illustrate that the primary voice for change in maternity care is and has always been the Consumer's Voice. Representatives from CSMC are pleased to discuss the letter campaign and grassroots efforts.
3. LONG ROAD TO MIDWIFERY CARE: Currently, pregnant women must go to one of two hospitals – the Montfort or the Queensway Carleton Hospital – in order to have a midwife-attended hospital birth. For many in Ottawa, the drive to one of these hospitals is too long and far. To give birth at a less distant hospital, consumers must choose obstetrics against their preference of midwifery care.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Consumers Supporting Midwifery Care (CSMC) is a grassroots group of Ottawa area consumers advocating for midwifery care including working to decrease waiting lists and to expand midwifery privileges at Ottawa-area hospitals.

Midwives are primary care givers (like GPs or OBs) who provide continuity of care to their clients ~ healthy women having low-risk births ~ caring for women and their babies throughout pregnancy, childbirth and for 6 weeks postpartum. Midwifery is provincially regulated and fees for service for Ontario midwives are fully funded through the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-term Care. The Ontario government has recently dedicated more resources and funding to postsecondary midwifery training programs, and the number of midwifery graduates will double within four years.

Birth choices: Midwifery standard of care is evidence-based and clients are empowered to make their own health choices based on informed consent. Choices may include place of birth as midwives are equipped to handle birth at home. Studies show that homebirth in low-risk situations has been shown to be equally as safe as hospital birth.

Midwives in the hospital work as part of the integrated obstetrics team in a non-adversarial relationship that is supportive of each professional within their specific scope of practice. Midwifery clients consistently spend less

time in hospital and have fewer interventions than women assisted by family physicians and obstetricians. Midwives free up hospitals and obstetricians to focus on care to women with higher risk pregnancies and emergency care, thereby providing significant economic and human resource savings to the health care system.

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Media Contact:

Gina Merlin

Phone: (613) 989-1777

Cell: (613) 314-0314

CSMC Info: www.midwiferyconsumers.org

Email CSMC: info@midwiferyconsumers.org

2) Finances:

Equador fundraiser <http://www.equador.ca> (Donna)

Coffee co out in Almonte. Fairtrade, organic. They do fundraisers. Small batches, they can do small batches. \$7.45-\$7.65 retails for \$12.00 for 350g. They can provide us with samples for info sessions etc. Website has list of different kinds. We have to pay up front, but we should be able to handle it.

We would have to figure out how to sell it. Sandra suggested that it could be sold at the clinics with the onsies. Sweet Peach would be willing to sell it.

Onesies: (Sheila)

She is selling lots of the onsies. There are few 6, 12 onsies, 2,3,4 shirts as well going to EBS. Sheila will do personalized sizes. The order will be done end of the summer. Contact Sheila directly or click on picture on website. Sheila has done a phenomenal job!!!

The Business of Being Born – Elissa

She's bought herself a copy. It can be purchased through a website. Can we look into public showings? What about at Notre Dame High School where they do the family movie nights? Elissa is game on getting it shown.

Elissa to look into Mayfair or Notre Dame.

Kathleen was suggesting reconnecting older families back into midwifery-those whose kids are older and don't know what is going on these days.

Calendar fundraiser (Donna)

When are we going to put out request for photographs? We were going to talk about it in September, but are we going to request photos nowish? We will get it on the website as soon as possible.

3) Picninc follow-up – Mary/Sheila

There were quite a few midwives present. It went well. There was good turnout for midwives. There were some comments that people didn't know that the picnic was happening.

Previous years invitations have been sent.

Sandra will follow up with Collective to see if CSMC flyer is going out in their pamphlets.

Thanks to the midwives who came!

We are now at 229 people on our list.

Gina suggested getting people to fill out info for draw and do this at each clinic, so someone will get a welcome baby basket. A guest book at each clinic could work. Focusing on the fun aspect of this group.

4) Info Session update: (Mary)

The last info session is done.

New Info session coordinators for 08-09: Auramarina and Aaron Sawyer. Mary will meet with them next week and teach them all they need to know. Talk with them if there are any questions etc.

Barrhaven venue for 2008-2009 – Elissa
Kemptville as a possibility.

5) 2007-2008 Wrqp-up and 2008 - 2009 Planning:

Thank you's to: Christy Swift for CSMC website, Sheila McIntyre for her Onesies fundraising initiatives, Leslie Ashton for her coordination/e-mail contacts and mailout communications, Julia/Donna/Christy/Mary for their Midwifery practice liaising jobs all year, Julia D. for her monthly meeting minutes and record keeping, Mary B for her Midwifery Info sessions, Mary/Julia/Annik/Ileana for their meeting hosting each month and for all of the volunteers who helped out throughout the year!!!! Mary for the info sessions!!!

* New Info session coordinators for 08-09: Auramarina and Aaron Sawyer

* New Website Coordinator-Mary Beatty/Mark Hammer

**** **Mary is looking for anyone who is a website experienced person, who can give up 2 hours one evening, to come over, and help me load up Dreamweaver, onto my computer, and then, help me load up all of the CSMC website stuff from the disks that Christy sent me, and update everything and get me started?**

* New meeting locations/venues for 08-09:

Kathleen/Julia/Wendy H will host every three months, third Monday of each month

2008-09 MEETING LOCATION AND SCHEDULE BELOW, FOR CALENDAR PLANNING, FOR WEBSITE POSTING, FOR CONSUMERS E-MAIL LIST, AND FOR ANNOUNCING AT THE FINAL MAY 26th CONSUMERS MEETING.

*DONNA WILL BE THE ONE MAIN contact person who will attend all of the meetings for the year, and who will act as liaison person for the 6 practices, rather than four of us doing the liaison duties, like we did this year. Midwifery practices will be in contact with DONNA all year, and she will relay notices, changes, updates, news, etc. to the Consumers group each month, as well as invite all 6 practices to the meetings, etc. IT'S A BIG JOB, AND ONE THAT DONNA IS TAKING ON, BEGINNING IN SEPTEMBER 2008. THANK YOU, DONNA!

SEE SCHEDULE AND LOCATION OF MEETINGS BELOW:

1) MONTHLY CONTACT LIAISON PERSON WITH ALL 6 MIDWIFERY CLINICS, for MONTHLY UPDATES, NEWS ETC. at
MONTHLY CSMC MEETINGS--Donna

2) MEETING DATES/LOCATIONS FOR FALL 08-SPRING 2009 CONSUMERS MEETINGS:
7:30-8:30pm
Third Monday of EVERY month

September 15th, December 15th, and March 16th--Kathleen Wilker's home-WEST
55 Sherbrooke Ave.. Hintonburg

October 20th, January 19th and April 20th -- Julia Driedger's home SOUTH - 1473 Brule Ave., Ottawa
(Bank/Riverside)

November 17th, February 16th and May 25th -- Wendy Huculak's clinic EAST, Prescott-Russell Midwives' Office, 2127 St-Joseph Blvd., Orleans

Still need:

- ☐☐☐☐☐☐ **someone for meeting minutes 2008 - 2009 (1 - 3 volunteers; either someone for every meeting all year, or one person for each venue once every 3 months)**
- ☐☐☐☐☐☐ **meeting chair (1 - 3 volunteers; either someone for every meeting all year, or one person for each venue once every 3 months)**

Any website information that needs to get up, contact Mary who will be doing that in June. A comment page.

In September follow up with Collective to find out if anything needs to be done.