

**Consumers Supporting Midwifery Care
Monday September 15, 2008
55 Sherbrooke Ave**

Present: Sheila MacIntyre, Auramarina, Kathleen Wilker, Diane Parkin, Mary Beatty, Aaron, Juliet McMurren, Elissa Cohen, Julia, Gina Merlin, Betty-Anne Daviss

1) Midwifery Practice Updates:

MGO- According to Diane: they are in the process of interviewing a 2nd new registrant for January. they are going nowhere fast with hospital privileges (just not responding-neither negatively or positively), new registrants will be taking positions of people who are gone, not new positions as there are no new privileges for anyone (midwives, doctors etc.). The Montfort is bursting at the seams! They can't fit anyone else.

MCO-none

OVM-none

PR-They need more privileges at the hospital. They have 3 working there and a new registrant.

MVM-none

StLVM-none

2) Queensway-Carleton update (OVM & consumer working group):

Nothing to update

On June 9th a meeting was held at Kathleen Wilker's home to discuss the next steps for the Midwifery Consumers in our quest to encourage the Queensway Carleton Hospital to provide increased privileges to the midwives of the Ottawa Valley Midwives practice. In attendance were Kathleen Wilker, Sheila McIntyre, Gina Merlin, and Ileana Grgic.

Much time was spent discussing the politics of the issue in an effort to assess the situation and to decide the best course of action. Sheila shared her wealth of knowledge based on her experience with the Midwifery Consumers, as well her involvement as a consumer on the Ontario Maternity-Care Expert Panel, the Advisory Council to the Midwifery Education Program & the Champlain LHIN maternity committee. Highlights of the conversation include:

** George Smitherman, MPP and Minister of Health and Long-Term Care, has supported midwifery care to the best of his abilities by approving additional funding the the Midwifery Education Program (increasing from 60 students at 3 campuses to 90 over two years starting this fall).*

** The Public Hospitals Act provides all of the power regarding privileges to the hospital Boards & CEO's. That said, it has been pointed out the CEO's are in between a rock and a hard place. Even if the CEO of a hospital is supportive of midwifery and increasing privileges, they will experience great challenges should the OB's not be on the same page.*

** Kathleen is waiting to hear back from Dr. Robert Cushman, Chair of the LHIN, sometime in July to see if there is anything that the LHIN's can do to support us in this quest.*

** It was noted that as a longer term goal, we could look to lobbying a change to the Public Hospitals Act to give government officials more power to force OB departments to offer midwives more privileges. Another possible long term goal could be to work towards getting departments of midwifery (ran by midwives & separate from OB departments) in every hospital. Both of these potential options, although not unworthy of the effort, would be huge undertakings and are not immediate solutions for the issue.*

The issue of privileges is very complex and based on the conversation the following next steps have been agreed upon:

** Kathleen will write a letter in response to her letter of response from the Queensway Carleton Hospital signed by Dr. Andrew Falconer, Chief of Staff and Ms. Maureen Taylor-Greenly, VP Patient Care/CNO.*

** Although we are not anticipating a much more positive reply from Kathleen's follow-up letter, we feel that it is best to make one last ditch effort to make headway directly with the hospital staff, and of course we remain optimistic. Should the response not get us any further or should the hospital not respond at all, the next step from there will be to get the Board of Directors involved and start writing letters to them.*

At this point, we felt that taking these steps will demonstrate that we "the consumers" are not ready to back down on this issue and that we will keep pressing until something is done. At the same time, we have all agreed that it will remain extremely important to conduct ourselves with tact & to be firm but conscious of the working relationships that will need to continue between the midwives and the OBs. We do not want to hinder this relationship by leaving a sour taste in the mouths of the OB's. By the same token, we need to be equally careful about how we proceed with the media now and in the future so as not to worsen the situation.

Should anyone have any questions, comments, or input please direct them to Kathleen at info@midwiferyconsumers.org. We are completely open to everyone's thoughts as none of us are experts and we are moving through this as best we can.

3) LHIN update: Sheila

Teresa contacted consumers over the summer, requesting participation at an important upcoming LHIN consultation in August regarding scope of practice for 4 different health care professionals (physiotherapists, midwives, dietitians, and pharmacists).

The consultation is intended to guide HPRAC in their advisory document for the MOHLTC which is due at the end of August.

The LHIN has specifically requested that others not in these four disciplines attend in order to comment on inter-professional working environments and scopes of practice.

Consumers were asked to attend to support midwives working to their full capabilities and speak in support of full scope of practice.

We have been asked to forward some names of people other than midwives to attend.

(Sheila, Leslie and Sonya indicated an interest in attending, pending the date.)

Midwives were given VERY short notice and it was rather confusing at the time.... Liz Darling attended the meeting, as did some nurses and MDs and reports that it was a good meeting. Bobbi Soderstrom said that there would be opportunity to offer written feedback for the consultations, and she would let us know who to contact.

Sheila, consumer LHIN rep, wasn't advised of the meeting by her committee chair, yet the LHIN has a 'commitment' to 'public consultation'.

Sheila has an invitation for a workshop Oct 1. She been on the task force, but this is the first thing that she has been invited to. (Leslie Viets, Maxine, Liz Darling were suggested for this) Maternal Newborn Steering committee or leadership committee.

There was discussion on some information that Sheila received from Donna Bauer about a programme about educating a group of women together and then quick clinical visits. This was really only for information at this point and nothing to pursue as it wouldn't work in the Ontario midwifery mandate.

4) Info sessions (Auramarina & Aaron)

Elissa-is looking into the local paper to write something before the session in Barrhaven to generate awareness of the session.

a) photocopies request - Leslie to e-mail group to see if anyone would like to donate paper and/or copy posters for the October session, **otherwise will re-imburse Auramarina for cost of printing, etc.**

b) \$30 plastic/whiteboard display board (Village Green in Westport) - better than cardboard, but

not as high quality as a professional board-**Leslie to purchase.**

c) Next (17th) session reminder:

Midwifery Information session
Thursday, September 25th, 2008.
7-8 pm

Canadian Mothercraft, 475 Evered Avenue, Ottawa,
(just east of Byron and Churchill)

NO REGISTRATION REQUIRED.

Children welcome.

Light refreshments.

Free parking.

MORE INFO: www.midwiferyconsumers.org/

Email: Acanas@magma.ca Telephone: Auramarina or Aaron Sawyer at: 613-824-3598

d) Info session being planned for Barrhaven for October - need to reserve date/location

Go ahead was given to book the room and \$30 was given by Sheila for this to Auramarina and Aaron.

e) potential location (Shawn)

I'm a naturopathic doctor in Ottawa on your mailing list. I don't know if you need a location for meetings or info sessions in the Carling/Holland area, but I would like to offer my clinic's conference area free of charge to the Midwifery consumer's group for either meetings or info sessions. We will have the room furnished in October, and it seats 20, with a small kitchen facility available. We have hosted an info session here once before, but now have a much larger space available.

As well, we produce a quarterly newsletter that all of our patients receive by email. We list upcoming events free of charge, so if you would like advertise the info sessions, just email us the time and place, and we'll include it in the next letter.

I hope this is helpful to the group.

The thought that is that it is rather close to Mothercraft to pursue but the offer is appreciated nonetheless.

other potential locations (from Elissa):

I have done some research on possible locations for information sessions in Barrhaven for fall/winter. I visited the Early Years Center here and they did not seem that receptive to us holding an information session at their location. I am under the impression though, that we have held info sessions at an EYC before... Does anyone know if this is true and if so do we have any specific information we provided to them in order to get access to their location? The manager I spoke to said that she would need information on our group AND an outline of what we would be doing at the info session. I spoke to her specifically about this at our meeting, but she seemed to think (no matter how many times I told her not) that this was a workshop and would interfere with their relationship with Ottawa Public Health...

Another location that I found is the Ottawa Public Library Ruth E. Dickinson branch. A huge meeting room with lots of chairs and tables. A TV already set up. And lots of free advertising. The library charges \$25 for the use of the room by a group such as ours. I don't know what the protocol is on paying for a location for an info session, but \$25 does sound pretty reasonable to me, if we can spare it.

I have spoken to a couple of chiro offices and none of them have enough room for us to hold an info session there. If someone knows of a chiro office in Barrhaven that might have the space, please let me know and I will certainly give them a call.

I was thinking too that if we do decide to have an info session here, we should try and get the local Barrhaven paper (The Independent, I think?) to do an article like they did in Kanata. Once we make a decision on the info session, I can try and get that going too, if you want.

Auramarina found that they can publicize on A channel and somewhere else and will pursue this.

5) Website (Mary & Mark):

** I have found another, cheaper host for our website. I've paid for it, and it was \$60 or so, for the year, for*

the licence. So, I'm no longer using Dreamweaver, wayyyyy tooo expensive for us, anyway. I paid for it, on my personal visa.

website is nearly 100% up to date, as promised, and am meeting this week with my i.t. friend, to add the Kanata Kourier article and the tee-shirt pics to website, for fundraising for Sheila. I have purchased a gift card in the amount of \$50 to thank my neighbour for giving me 20 hours of his time, over the summer.

Mary has the website host taken care of. Mary is looking into software which is cheaper (\$60). Mary also paid the guy who helped her with web \$50 gift certificate. \$110 was given to Mary to reimburse.

* FYI letter writing campaign re: waiting lists removed from website-
Because we are not pursuing it now.

* request for more birth stories for website-
Email them to Mary.

6) Finances (Leslie)

Bank Account balance: \$903.13

Petty cash balance: \$38.02

Kathleen delivered \$200 from Extraordinary Baby Shoppe and \$140 was just given out.

- any \$ needed for upcoming info sessions? **Given out.**
- could the group consider approving re-imbursing Mary Beatty for the expenses she has incurred in taking over the website maintenance??? **Done**

7) Fundraising:

a) from Suzanne Arms: anyone interested in coordinating???

I am writing to see if anyone there would be interested in helping Suzanne Arms put on an event in Ottawa. She will be keynoting at a conference in Utica NY in October 2008 and is interested in putting together an event in Ottawa just after that (October 27th - 29th). This is a great way to get her to speak without incurring the traveling expenses from Colorado, just from the Utica area.

- needs to leave Syracuse around noon Monday Oct. 27th, for Ottawa, and leave Ottawa Wed. October 29th around noon, returning to Syracuse; Leslie still awaiting a response for more details from Suzanne (re: fees, proposed event type, required venue, etc...)

If you are interested in having her speak and can spearhead the setting-up of an event, we would love to hear from you.

It's pretty short notice to do. If we could work with Women's Studies at Carleton, but it is such a short amount of time. It did not seem as though there was much interest in pursuing this mostly due to short amount of time as well as cost involved to do so on our own.

b) t-shirts - Sheila

Sheila gave some to Extraordinary Baby Shop, Mel's Kids in Riverside hasn't sold many. She hasn't checked with Collective if they are in need of more.

Elissa suggested Blooming Kids (Manotik Lane), Here we grow again in Barrhaven-Elissa will go into both

places.

Toys R Us has baby events-maybe we can get a table there? But they just had their event.

If we could get them in more places where people can just go in and buy them rather than Sheila having to tote around and send them.

ETSY.com-we will try to get them listed there

Birthing the Future would do that too (Betty-Anne)

Breastfeeding Committee-Elissa

Birthing without Boundaries in Pennsylvania-Betty-Anne

A place in the NYC-Betty-Anne

We will try to sell off what we have before we make another order.

c) BOBB - Elissa

** Business of Being Born--ROGERS ON DEMAND, if consumers have rogers, at home. It's \$5.99 and everyone can see it!!!*

As for our BOBB screening, after numerous phone messages and emails, I have not gotten any response yet from the Mayfair. I think we should just go ahead and book Notre Dame High School Auditorium. It seems reasonable and there are lots of seats and street parking.

Here is the rundown on the auditorium:

- *The school will only begin looking at bookings at the end of August, but we can get our form in whenever we want with some dates (I have the form). We would not be able to do the screening before fall, which is the time we were looking at anyway.*
- *The fee schedule is the following: <http://www.ottawacatholicschools.ca/media.php?mid=28121> (so it looks like for our use, it would be \$100) plus a \$300 security deposit*
- *The auditorium holds 675 people (at even \$1 for an entrance fee we would clear the movie screening fee, which is \$225, and the auditorium rental fee, if we can fill the place!)*
- *Keep in mind that the \$225 screening copy of the movie can be used over and over again so if we want to have another screening later in the year, we can without having to buy the movie. It is ours to keep.*

I was thinking we should book a weeknight in the beginning of October. That way all the craziness with school starting and getting settled in for the fall is done. How about Wednesday October 8 at 7pm?

If this date is ok with everyone, I will go ahead and get the paperwork in so we can get it firmed up and start advertising in the beginning of September. Mary, you could probably put a placemaker on the website if we are going ahead with it that says something about the screening and to watch for a date TBA.

Upon further discussion, Elissa learned that a couple of other places have already done it and had poor showing so we aren't going to pursue it anymore. She has a copy if anyone wants to borrow it.

d) coffee - Donna

fundraiser through Equator coffee in Almonte <http://www.equator.ca>

no updates-but if it is pursued, people would do orders ahead. Sheila brought up the thought that it is a stretch to pursue and it we are already asking lots of the stores to sell t-shirts/onesies. If it was just through our mailing list, that might be okay. It doesn't really have anything to do with midwifery other than midwives drink lots of coffee;-)

What about a pin that states, "My Ontario Includes Midwives" or something like that. Or the picture of the t-

shirt on the pin. Or "Midwifery is catching." Not just fundraising, but also awareness.

e) calendar - Donna & Stephanie-no updates

8) Feedback Committee - Kathleen & Donna

9) Fact Sheet - Gina

Gina will talk about it at next meeting. Gina would like some more support on it from people as to what should go on it. Bust some myths, fact sheet that could be handed out, posted on website. Juliet also expressed an interest to help Gina. Julia suggested that Gina start the fact sheet and email it around to a number of people for feedback and suggestions as to what else can be included.

On the Midwifery Fact Sheet project... Things have been slow due to my busy business life (can't complain too much about that!), but I haven't forgotten about my commitment to this project. Donna offered to work on this with me. The fact sheet will be useful in our pitch to Ontario Today for a call-in on the topic of midwifery and maternity care in Ontario. I think it's a hot topic and it should be well received. Rita Celli is currently on holiday and it is a gent in her place. I think the producers will agree that it is best to do the show with Rita as the host... she is so sensitive and tactful and would better understand the issues I believe.

Anyway, this fact sheet will be based on info available on the AOM website... see links provided by Joanna Zuc below. If any of you have suggestions on issues or facts or common misperceptions to include... Please send them to me and I'll compile them all and put them all together in an easy to read/understand way.

Looking forward to your input!!

10) Next meeting reminder:

Monday October 20th--Julia D's home-SOUTH
1473 Brule Ave, Ottawa, near Bank/Riverside.

11) Three notices that may be of interest to consumers that arrived over the summer holiday period.

i) * The Association of Ontario Midwives is pleased to introduce the first issue of *Ontario Midwife*. *Ontario Midwife* replaces *The Informer*. Our aim is to publish regularly, on a quarterly basis.

The summer 2008 issue includes information on:

- Hospital integration action*
- The provincial maternity care strategy announcement*
- Ontario midwives at the AOM and ICM conferences and more!*

Ontario Midwife is also available to download from the AOM website at:

<http://www.aom.on.ca/Communications/Newsletter.aspx>

** If anyone would like the .pdf version of this issue sent as an attachment, let us know at info@midwiferyconsumers.org*

ii) Sent on behalf of Robin Guy,
Coalition for Breech Birth, www.breechbirth.ca

"Refusing vaginal breech birth is a human rights violation in that it forces women to consent to surgery in order to obtain medical care. The right to informed consent is meaningless where there is no access to informed refusal."
- Henci Goer, author of "The Thinking Woman's Guide to a Better Birth"

I thought this would be good news to disseminate via the Consumer's Group. I received this letter last week from Andre Lalonde in response to the petition that I dropped off at the end of June. I think this info is especially important for childbirth educators and doulas as well as midwives, to help fill in the gaps in informed consent that persist regarding breech birth.

blessings

Robin

RE: Breech Birth in Canada

Dear Ms. Guy:

Thank you very much for your letter dated June 25th, 2008 regarding Breech Birth in Canada. Your letter was perfectly timed as the Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada's (SOGC) Council Committee has just discussed and approved new guidelines that will offer choices to women who want to have a vaginal birth when there is a breech presentation. The breech guideline is now being copy-edited and will be published in the fall in the JOG. At that time, it will become official SOGC policy. A full press release will be prepared and we would be happy to have you, or someone from your group, participate.

The SOGC had a guideline in 1994. In 2000, given the results and the publicity surrounding breech delivery, we felt it was necessary to warn our members about the study and suggested they discuss it with their patients. At no time did the SOGC ever recommend cesarean sections for all breech presentation. I regret these comments reported by physicians and we will certainly work hard to correct these impressions.

The SOGC will also collaborate with the Association of Professors of Obstetrics and Gynaecology (APOG) to make sure that Breech Vaginal Delivery is taught properly in all medical schools in Canada.

Thank you very much for sending this information to me, I will circulate this information to SOGC Council. I will also put you on the mailing list for our guidelines, which are printed in the JOGC as well as being available on our website.

Yours Sincerely,

*André B. Lalonde, MD, FRCSC, FSOGC, FACS, MSc
Executive Vice-President*

iii) Over the summer on July 11th, Gina appeared on the radio during the Ontario Today Call-in segment on the topic of "Why are C-sections on the rise?" There were 5 callers, and Gina was in the middle. Way to go!

12) As of October we still need chairs for the meetings, someone to take minutes. Elissa and Gina both suggested that they might be able to help out with minutes.

13) Betty-Anne-Organismic Birth-It's a movie that is in about 89 countries and Betty-Anne was talking about getting Deborah? to come to Ottawa, work with Women's Studies at Carleton and put it on as an educational component for midwifery care.

There was talk and brainstorming about how we can educate Ottawa about midwifery (sessions). We need people to spearhead a taskforce to research groups of people who we can reach (specific courses, disciplines etc). Juliet is willing to help with this group, but it's her first meeting. Gina will try to connect with Algonquin as she has some connections there. Raging Grannies are willing to write a song and sing it about midwifery in Ottawa.