

## Evaluation Report FOCUS/ODAP Symposium 2007

The FOCUS/ODAP Symposium for 2007 was developed on a theme of ***Alcohol and Drug Connections: Chronic Disease, Injury Prevention and Mental Health***. The organizers offered information and workshops linking participants to emerging Ministry of Health Promotion priorities. The Chief Coroner for Ontario Dr. Barry McLellan spoke eloquently about the issue of ***Alcohol, Drugs and Injury Prevention: The Role of the Coroner***. This was followed by a panel representing perspectives from Pharmacy, Research and Mental Health Promotion.



The conference offered two days of workshops which included:

- ***The Risks and Realities of Youth and Marijuana***, Diane Buhler, PAD
- ***Injury Prevention Across the Age Spectrum***, Joanne Banfield, Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre
- ***Chronic Disease & Alcohol: Research, Policies, and Local Action***, Norman Geisbrech, CAMH
- ***Preventing Death by Power Point***, Brenda Stankiewicz, Sudbury FOCUS
- ***Steroids in Sports***, Matt Nichol, Toronto Maple Leafs
- ***Concurrent Disorders***, Christine Bois, CAMH and
- ***Desktop Publishing***, Patty Hajdu, Thunder Bay District Health Unit

In addition there were a number of short papers presented on topics ranging from evidence informed practice to post secondary alcohol and other drug prevention, youth participatory research and health care for men.

The symposium wrapped up with an event on making connections to other partners in the community, with speakers from Cancer Care Ontario, the Heart and Stroke Foundation, the Canadian Diabetes Association and the Ontario Heart Health Network.

Because of a corporate need to share the space at the venue, considerable effort went into assuring that this would be a memorable symposium for the participants. The Bank of Montreal provided an evening BBQ and reception as well as an evening of dinner and entertainment by Second City Comedy Troupe to offset the inconveniences caused. The chocolate covered strawberries on the coaches to the evening event were “a hit out of the park”. The work by the organizers and the BMO to overcome the last minute difficulties provided a seamless event in which there was only positive feedback about the venue and organization.

This was the first time the event was scheduled in the late spring rather than the winter and was a greatly appreciated change as many participants in far reaching areas of the province are hampered in their ability to travel by inclement weather in the winter months.

The overall evaluation of the conference was very positive with most evaluations indicating that the symposium Met or Exceeded expectations in regard to individual components. Overall 44% of respondents rated the conference as Excellent, 50% as Very Good and the remainder 6% as Good. There were no negative evaluations.

Comments included:

*"I believe it went beyond the expectations, Great opportunities to network."*

*"This was my first symposium, so I really had no expectations. However, it did give me better understanding of ODAP. The 2 groups worked well together,"*

*"I believe the conference was a positive amalgamation of resources. It allowed small "off the radar" programs to extend themselves & show what was possible".*

*"Please book at same location and same time of year. It was amazing"*

A number of people also offered suggestions for future symposiums which will be taken into consideration in planning future training events. These included:

*"More on social determinants of health and alcohol and drug prevention",*

*"Next year consider having a panel presentation for/about First Nation/Aboriginal initiatives that work from a possible pro-active perspective,*

*"Specific initiatives such as how messages differ between mainstream vs. aboriginal youth".*

*"I would like shorter workshops, but more of them. You learn more".*

The following section addresses the evaluations of the individual workshops.

## **The Risks and Realities of Youth and Marijuana: Lessons Learned from the What's with Weed Project**



The objectives of this workshop

1. To increase awareness of the risks and problems associated with marijuana use among youth and parents,
  2. To use strategies to reduce, avoid or prevent these problems or risks and
  3. To apply components of the What's with Weed Project to support work in this area
- were all met with about 1/3 in each case indicating that the workshop exceeded expectations and 50 – 60% indicating the workshop met expectations.

<b>Objective</b>	<b>Somewhat met</b>	<b>Met</b>	<b>Exceeded</b>
1	9%	59%	31%
2	9%	52%	39%
3	14%	59%	27%

The Facilitator was rated Very Good to Excellent by all on level of knowledge of the subject, ability to inspire others, presentation, and preparedness.

The overall quality and usefulness of the workshop were rated as Excellent by 50% of respondents, Very Good by 40% and the remainder as Good.

In response to what if anything they planned to do with the information gained, people commented that they would discuss it with their community, approach the school board, put a link to the website, and incorporate elements into their present work.

Additional comments included: “Useful material, practical application, etc”, “Amazing work. I’ve been waiting for something like this”, “Great program, wish it could be implemented in local schools. Also, video was very good and seems it would make an impact”.



## Injury Prevention Across the Age Spectrum: Lessons Learned

The objectives of this workshop

1. To identify the risk paradigm across the age spectrum
  2. To recognize what injury prevention is and is not
  3. To develop an effective injury prevention program specific to a target audience
- were Met and Exceeded in 80% to 90% of respondents. One respondent indicated that Objective 3 was Not Met.

Objective	Not Met	Somewhat Met	Met	Exceeded	Missing
1		10%	60%	30%	
2		10%	50%	40%	
3	10%		70%	10%	10%

The Facilitator was rated Very Good to Excellent by all on level of knowledge of the subject, presentation and preparedness. Ability to inspire others was rated as Good to Excellent

The overall quality and usefulness of the workshop was rated as Very Good to Excellent by 90% of respondents with 10% rating it Good

In response to what if anything they planned to do with the information gained people commented that they would pass this information on to management, check out all websites mentioned in this session, connect it to work in community, use videos in presentations and start to move on the ideas.

Additional comments included: “I’m not IP trained, so this was a great way for me to reframe my thinking”, “Excellent presentation, very informative and we had lots of fun”, “Excellent, inspiring and informative”.

## Alcohol as a Risk Factor for Chronic Disease: Research, Policies and Local Action



The objectives of this workshop

1. To inform about the links between alcohol use and chronic disease
2. To provide recommendations for local action concerning health promotion programming,
3. To provide information on viable policy action and initiatives

were rated across the range of responses.

Objective	Did not Meet	Somewhat met	Met	Exceeded	Missing
1		10%	75%	10%	5%
2	5%	40%	40%	5%	10%
3	5%	20%	55%	10%	10%

The Facilitator was rated by 90% as Very Good to Excellent on level of knowledge and preparedness. Ratings on ability to inspire and presentation ranged across the spectrum from Poor to Excellent with 80% rating ability to inspire as Good to Excellent and 85% rating presentation as Good to Excellent.

Overall quality and Usefulness of workshop were rated as Good to Excellent by over 90% of respondents.

In response to what if anything they planned to do with the information gained, people responded that they would bring back to community, put more energy on proven initiatives, help inform practice and help set priorities, incorporate the research into clinical practice to assist clients to understand better the potential consequences of substance use and that the information presented was very relevant and helpful.

Additional comments included *“Best part was second part – looking at the effectiveness & variety of approaches. Would have appreciated more time on this”, “I enjoyed the presentation – made me think more thoroughly on outright community education – starting for young populations and following through to adulthood”, “more specific/local solutions whether through breakout discussions or specific communities with examples and results”.*



## Preventing Death by Power Point

The objectives of this workshop

1. To learn how to analyze the audience to build meaningful Power Point presentations,
  2. To provide tips to make presentations more interesting
- were rated from Somewhat Met to Exceeded.

Objective	Did not Meet	Somewhat met	Met	Exceeded
1		40%	40%	20%
2		20%	60%	20%

The Facilitator was rated as Very Good to Excellent (100%) on level of knowledge and preparedness. On ability to inspire she was rated Good (20%) and Excellent (80%). On presentation she was rate Good (20%) to Very Good and Excellent (80%)

Overall quality of the presentation was rated Good (20%) and Excellent (80%). Usefulness was rated Good (20%) Very Good (20%) and Excellent (60%)

In response to what if anything they planned to do with the information gained, people responded that they would make the Power Points more interesting and easier to follow, add a ritual before a presentation e.g. stretching, use view master and file sent to Power Point, infuse information from telling stories – Andy Goodman and revamp old presentations.

Additional comments included “Great job” “Excellent”, “Wish it were longer”.

## Steroids in Sports



The objectives of this workshop

1. Information on performance drugs being used and their intended purpose,
  2. Description of populations at most risk and predisposition to steroid use,
  3. Discussion of benefits and risks of steroid use,
  4. Discussion of strategies to avoid use and how to deal with athletes currently using or suspected of using
- were primarily Met or Exceeded with one exception.

Objective	Did Not Meet	Somewhat met	Met	Exceeded
1		5%	32%	63%
2			26%	74%
3		5%	32%	63%
4	6%	6%	44%	44%

The Facilitator was rated Excellent in preparedness by all respondents, Very Good to Excellent in level of knowledge and presentation and Good (6%), Very Good (17%) to Excellent (78%) in ability to inspire others.

Overall quality of the workshop was rated Very Good (17%) to Excellent (83%). Usefulness was scored Very Good (28%) to Excellent (72%)

In response to what if anything they planned to do with the information gained, people responded that it was useful in public health, working with secondary school athletes and coaches, they would take it to a son’s high school that offers a sports program, show it to co-workers working in schools to include the subject in their presentations, they were inspired to continue to push for the development of a Steroid pamphlet and would add new information to current presentations to students that touches on steroids, supplements etc.

Additional comments included “Great choice of presenter, “fantastic”, “excellent presentation”, “consider train the trainer, so Matt’s message can get to high schools”, “next year go beyond steroids to look at other performance enhancing or weight gain/weight loss supplements”



## Concurrent Disorders: Considerations for Health Promoters.

The objectives of this workshop

1. To understand the importance of concurrent disorders,
2. To examine attitudes and values,
3. To discuss prevention activities for concurrent disorders

were Met or Exceeded for the majority of respondents with the exception of Somewhat Met for some respondents to objective 3

Objective	Missing	Somewhat met	Met	Exceeded
1			75%	25%
2	5%		75%	20%
3	5%	15%	50%	30%

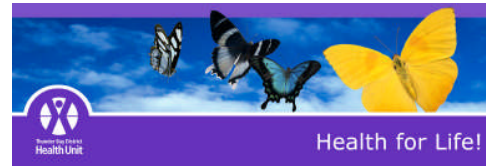
The Facilitator was rated Very Good to Excellent on preparedness and level of knowledge with one exception who rated her Fair on this aspect. She was rated Good (5%) to Very Good (50%) and Excellent (45%) on presentation and rated across the spectrum from Fair (5%) to Excellent (45%) on ability to inspire others.

Overall quality of the workshop was rated Good to Excellent by 90% of respondents and usefulness was rated Good to Excellent by 85% of respondents and Fair by 15%.

In response to what if anything they planned to do with the information gained, people responded to share information, to look at research about CD prevention – start with websites provided in workshop and research specifics about prevention, to start small and see where it takes us, to present some of the initiatives & overall themes to employer as a potential new direction, review evaluation tools and look at how it can be integrated into existing programs.

Additional comments included “Excellent” “very inspiring”, “ would have liked to hear more about less “Cadillac” programs that are not so money & resource dependent, or how to modify existing programs to include CD”.

## Desktop Publishing: Clear Design on a Shoestring



The objectives of this workshop

1. To learn basic design principles that can be used at work
2. To revise or create a new promotional piece

were met or exceeded by the majority of respondents. Objective 2 was Somewhat Met for some.

Objective	Somewhat met	Met	Exceeded
1		63%	37%
2	25%	50%	25%

The Facilitator was rated Very Good to Excellent in all facets of level of knowledge, ability to inspire, presentation and preparedness with the high majority 75%+ rating her as Excellent.

Overall quality and usefulness of the workshop were rated Very Good (25%) and Excellent (75%) by respondents.

In response to what if anything they planned to do with the information gained, people responded they would create and improve work, use it with my future presentations, posters, publications, update brochure, greeting cards, website with youth club and use some of the ideas in developing a First Nations' product.

Other comments included

*Great flexibility Patty (i.e., power outage) "You are very knowledgeable. Well done", "loved it – great tips - loved the cheat sheet too" "great job".*

Overall the conference including presentations, keynote and workshops was very well received. Responses indicate the FOCUS needs are well met with opportunities to network and to learn more about each other, ODAP partners and potential collaborations. DAC needs are increasingly being met with improvements over past conferences. There is a continuing desire for more networking and content opportunities for DACs and some specific suggestions about how to structure the ODAP presentation.

This year we had increased participation from government at both the provincial and federal level. As well as the Program Co-coordinators at MHP for both FOCUS and ODAP, the Director of the Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion Branch (who gave a brief address) and participants from the Policy Branch, we also had a participant from Health Canada who made the following suggestion *"Ontario Health Canada rep from Drug Strategy and ADTR would be excellent partners in a conference like this, as well Public Health Agency. DSCIF funds some of the projects that were highlighted"*.



Others comments about the conference included *“I think it was an excellent symposium”, “ I enjoyed this conference very much and do not feel anything was sacrificed in order to meeting BMOs request for changes”, “Great opportunities for networking”, “Workshops were informative and very useful - great presenters.” and “ I always come back with fresh ideas”.*

In summary although there were a number of changes for this year both in rescheduling the conference and in responding to last minute needs of the BMO, the conference rolled out seamlessly with some added features to offset changes necessitated by the concurrent BMO event. Drawing on a number of experts outside the usual pool of presenters also brought some new information, ideas and potential collaborative opportunities to the attention of the FOCUS coalitions and DAC participants. In addition interesting ideas

were generated for future training events and these will be considered as the planning begins for Symposium 2008.