

HIV, Disability and Rehabilitation:

An Overview of Programs and Activities

Canadian Working Group on
HIV and Rehabilitation (CWGHR)

Annual General Meeting
June 13, 2010



CWGHR's Vision

The daily lives of people living with HIV are improved in direct and meaningful ways by rehabilitation care, support and services.



What do we mean by rehabilitation?

An activity or process that:

- *Promotes improved health and quality of life*
e.g. improving mobility, increased energy, improving mental health, sexual health, access to income security, employment opportunities; community participation
- *Helps to manage, reduce or prevent health and life related problems of a specific condition*
e.g. managing or eliminating pain, conserving energy, lessening fatigue, reducing barriers to employment; preventing other health conditions or emergencies (e.g. heart attack, broken bones, diabetes, depression, anxiety, dementia)



CWGHR Program Areas

Four primary program areas:

- Increasing access to rehabilitation services for people living with HIV
- Income security and employment
- Integrating HIV and other episodic disabilities
- International perspectives



Access to Rehabilitation

To increase awareness of, and access to, rehabilitation programs and services for people living with HIV

Awareness

- Teaching people with HIV about rehabilitation roles/opportunities
- Teaching rehabilitation workers about HIV - Interprofessional (IPL) course across Canada
- On-line course on HIV and rehabilitation
- Adapting curriculum for other communities and care providers
- Mentorship - Expanding HIV and Rehabilitation Mentorship program
- HIV and mental health – plans for development of new program – include in IPL course
- HIV and aging – Forum (2009, 2010),
 - upcoming - coordinating committee; webinars
- “CWGHR Campus”



Increasing access, cont'd.

Research

- New research – based on CWGHR scoping review 2008: 6 priority areas e.g. disability/episodic disability, concurrent health conditions living with HIV, HIV and the brain, labour force / income access to and effect of rehabilitation, measurement tools
- New Collaboration with UK - CUHRRC
- “Module 7” update – evidence informed rehabilitation guidelines for the care of people living with HIV



Increasing access (cont'd)

Practice

Module 7 –updating rehabilitation practice guidelines

Partnerships to integrate rehabilitation into front-line care for HIV and other related conditions

Policy barriers to access (who has access to rehabilitation, de-listing of rehabilitation services, etc.)



Income Security and Employment

To eliminate barriers to employment for people living with HIV

To increase employment opportunities for people with HIV to work when their health permits

- HIV employment network, employment workshops –expanding to employment network for people with HIV and other episodic disabilities - Episodic Disabilities Employment Network (EDEN)
- Education of employers, human resource and vocational counsellors, rehabilitation professionals, and people living with HIV etc. (online and in-person courses)
- Promote more flexible policies through government and insurance companies – so people can work when health permits without risking social safety net (research, policy briefs, presentations, etc.)
- Activities to promote improved coordination of income and employment programs - awareness and communication among policy makers, program staff, etc.



Integration between HIV and other Episodic Disabilities

To promote cross-disability linkages and action on issues of mutual concern

- Episodic Disabilities Network
- National strategy on episodic disabilities – discussion paper - consultation process
- Provincial episodic disabilities initiatives: network/ partnerships, resource centre, web site, information and referral; collaboration with Bridgepoint Health on resource centre



International Perspectives

To promote communication between Canada and other countries for global action on issues of HIV, disability and rehabilitation

- Continue to develop and strengthen global linkages
- Adapt curriculum on HIV, disability and rehabilitation – on-line and in-person
- UN Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) follow up activities
- Consultation on global HIV and disability network
- Sessions at AIDS 2010



Organizational and Partnership Development

- Updated strategic plan 2010-13
- CWGHR Development Strategy
- Collaboration with national HIV partners on HIV issues at national level e.g. HIV funding, UNGASS report, review of national HIV advisory committees, Leading Together review
- Partnership development and communications with membership and other stakeholders



CWGHR staff (in alphabetical order):

Sarah Burdeniuk

Julie Hard

Janet London

Martine Mangion

Catherine Nasije

Melissa Popiel

Elisse Zack

Annette Wilkins:

Project lead: HIV and Rehabilitation Practice Guidelines



CWGHR Programs and Activities

For more information:

CWGHR web site www.hivandrehab.ca

Email: info@hivandrehab.ca

