

Newfoundland & Labrador Centre for

**APPLIED
HEALTH
RESEARCH**

www.nlcsh.mun.ca



Research Exchange Groups

MEETING NOTES

THE RESEARCH EXCHANGE GROUP ON SERVICE LEARNING/ COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT (SLICE)
September 26 2019

Gladys Schofield- is here to learn about community projects. Her main interest is as a Nurse educator in community health in both The BN and LPN programs at the Centre for Nursing studies. Gladys is a member of the wellness coalition (Heather Powell is the coordinator)

Ally Jamieson- Choices for Youth- is here because she is both a researcher and a community organization worker and she recognizes that the community sector wants to understand research better and researchers want to learn about community in an ethical, responsible, responsive, comprehensive way- building communities of practice.

Taylor Stocks is a PhD student in Education. They worked on Memorial projects on collaboration in the past and is now working with an experiential learning taskforce at Memorial. They are here for connection and has access to student populations, enabling connections to be made among our membership.

John Abbott, Canadian Mental Health Association- NL (CMHA-NL) CEO, is in a new role and is looking to explore opportunities on behalf of CMHA-NL in terms of what is happening with others working in areas of mental health and addictions. He wants to learn from others and to find out what can learn about the challenges in service delivery for people in NL, recognizing that there is a lot happening and a lot that needs to happen to serve people with mental health and addictions challenges in NL.

Shannon Lewis Simpson directs the Experiential Learning program in Student Life at Memorial, a program that encourages students to engage in community life. Health is an over-arching aim for students and for the program. Student Life at Memorial has Shannon and a small, student-led team that is looking for ways to grow capacity for programs. Shannon seeks to make the sort of engagement we are doing with this Research Exchange Group *normal* and not the product of a task force, but something we do every day—look out for research that emerges from community and find ways that Memorial can support community-led research as well.

Hannah Gaultois works with the Centre for Social Enterprise at Memorial. CSE creates opportunities for students to be exposed to social enterprise in their curriculum but Hannah's work is directed towards external (community) partners to support social enterprise activities and to provide paid placements for students in community—placements that are flexible and responsive to partners—within a provincial scope. She noted that there is a new MBA program in Social Enterprise and Entrepreneurship at Memorial in which the third term is an internship, MBA-SEE students will start working in community this summer, providing a great opportunity for community partners to work with a student. The program has 15 students, some of whom will be available for placements in community.

Joanie Cranston & Philomena Gaslard- Joanie works as a physiotherapist at a Social Enterprise at the Bonne Bay Cottage Hospital, was invited to Port aux Choix and Port Saunders to provide services in a clinic. Joanie wants to form a community non-profit to operate a community / clinic space that will offer a variety of services related to health and wellness. Bonne Bay Consulting will work through the project and a consulting grant was offered to Joanie to do this project as community-based research, to gather baseline data, and to track the community centre's progress over time. This SLICE group will try to link Joanie with resources from Memorial and from community partners to help guide this process and is actively seeking advice from our membership on how best to design this community-led research.

Cindy Holden is a Registered Dental Hygienist with a strong interest in community health, and a researcher in community health who had been tangentially involved in community research, having worked professionally in the private sector in the past. Social enterprise in a community space (as described by Joanie Cranston) is of great interest, especially considering the Scandinavian model of community clinics that provide a range of services within one location. Community oral health clinics are especially interesting in Cindy's view. She is interested in community spaces as sites of service delivery and is very interested in doing research. She noted that the need for community services may be acute in rural and remote communities in NL and that mobile dental hygiene clinics have real potential to help communities achieve improved oral health. Some of the questions she would like to explore include how we can use the Electronic Health Record to support such clinics. Could we develop an IT solution that will allow community to share EHR data (as required) to perform services in community settings? We are also very short on oral health data and would need to ensure that EHR helps to collect data on oral health as well.

Jill Allison- Global Health Coordinator in Faculty of Medicine is interested in forwarding a social justice agenda in Medicine and hopeful that service learning and community engagement will help make sure that new generations of medical school graduates are attuned to community needs—that service learning will disrupt assumptions and promote meaningful engagement/ health justice and social justice so that graduate clinicians will have a better understanding of their role in social medicine and in care that does not discriminate and that respects and preserves community values.

Sherrie Komiak is an Associate Professor of Information Systems at the Faculty of Business at Memorial. She is interested in telemedicine including virtual consultations and virtual monitoring. Her research interests include human computer interactions in e-health, such as using information technologies to help seniors for better living and better health. She would also like to design systems/ train users to improve technical literacy and competencies and seeks to develop mental health supportive services at the community level using information technology.

Emily Doyle is a PhD student from the Faculty of Medicine whose research examines complexity theory and the school food system in Newfoundland and Labrador. Ms. Doyle is completing her studies in the Division of Community Health and Humanities under the supervision of Dr. Martha Traverso-Yepe. She is the recipient of a \$40,000 research grant from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada and spoke about her research to the Research Exchange Group on Cost and Value in Healthcare last year. Ms. Doyle's interest in sustainable food choices snowballed after completing a research project in Harbour Grace that focused on the use of school gardens for health promotion. She says the greenhouse provided a positive learning environment for students and teachers but also encountered barriers to sustainability. The project led Ms. Doyle to broaden her research focus from the school garden to the whole school food environment. Ms. Doyle has examined various models around the world which combine sensible meal options and experiential learning so that food becomes an educational experience. She is interested in community collaborations. On behalf of the group and NLCAHR, we would like to offer sincere apologies to Emily for our oversight in providing her an opportunity to speak to these points during the meeting.

Julia Janes, School of Social Work at Memorial, will be presenting her research to the SLICE group in November. Although she was unable to attend the meeting on the 26th, Julia sent an email afterwards to let us know that she would like to flag two areas of interest that she was thinking of bringing to the conversation: 1) How we might support the Urban Indigenous Coalition? 2) How could we move forward on an idea Jill Alison had raised around the Forum Theatre and engaging with the Gathering Place?

PROJECTS

Community Employment Collaboration will have an OPIOID AWARENESS WORKSHOP on Tuesday, October 1st, 2019 from 1:30pm to 3pm at 120 LeMarchant Road, Key Assets Training Room (parking in the back lot). The session is the result of the work of Opioid Awareness and Support Team (OAST), a student interest group at Memorial's Faculty of Medicine formed in 2018 by a group of medical students out of interest in increasing awareness, education and support in response to the Opioid Crisis in Newfoundland and Labrador. Currently, OAST consists of 10 medical students with three principle working mandates: Opioid overdose awareness at MUN; Medical Education; and Community Engagement and Social Accountability. OAST members will provide an overview of Opioid Use Disorder (OUD), the science of addiction, screening tools, antagonist therapies being used currently and accessing care. To register, contact elayne@employmentcollaboration.ca

AUTISM SOCIETY PROJECT Hannah Gaultois noted that, as the result of a past SLICE meeting, Sarah O'Grady from the Autism Society of NL (ASNL) connected with Hannah at Centre for Social Enterprise at MUN and they co-designed a project for people interested in small entrepreneurial activities. The project connected people at ASNL with resources on how to start up a business and included a student from the Faculty of Business Administration (for help with how to start a business), from the School of Social Work (on how to support your self-care and needs), and from Education (helping identify the needs of people with ASD) who helped get the project started - working together to develop a mini-business program at the ASNL- which will soon have an online module!

CHOICES FOR YOUTH now plans to hire a full-time research assistant because their social enterprise program has an employment model that they will be testing- they will be looking for a researcher with business/ economics background and possibly other kinds of experience to look at the program using a service dynamics lens—research will look at various questions, such as: What does success look like?

What are the socio-economic factors that community organizations should consider? What are the mental health issues? How do we define success in an employment program? The idea is to build a new framework to impact the broader field of community service delivery.

CMHA-NL is looking closely at service delivery at the moment, but is also looking for a way to capture and assess current services for mental health and addictions in NL including how to define indicators to measure successes provincially. Elayne Greeley mentioned that Penny Rowe at the Community Sector Council has been leading a sector-wide evaluation process that looks at how we measure success and how we work to help community agencies connect with evaluative services. Jill Allison suggested looking at what collaborations are taking place already at the community level. John Abbott noted that many agencies and individuals are now volunteering and working in various agencies and community organizations and that one subset of the work of CMHA-NL will be supporting opportunities to work together, leverage community networks, and to support the work already being done while improving the potential for collaboration.

MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY MEDICAL SCHOOL- In addition to the opioid awareness team noted above, Jill Allison noted that the Association for New Canadians recently approached medical school about creating a smoking cessation program for refugees, a project that will include Pharmacy, Medicine and Nursing students.

MEMORIAL'S CITL EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING TASK FORCE- Taylor noted that a task force will be working over the next two months to identify experiential learning opportunities in an effort to consult and collaborate to develop a definition of experiential learning based on actual projects happening at Memorial. Kim Myrick, at CITL (Centre for Innovation in Teaching and Learning) is leading this process and Jill Allison has been invited to join the team.

IDEAS FOR A FUTURE SESSION

Creative Solutions "How do we come up with work-arounds - recognizing the challenges that exist but figuring out how to overcome them?"

"How do we build collaborative capacity?"

NEXT MEETING: 12:30pm on December 3 Dr. Julia Janes from Memorial's School of Social Work will speak about critical approaches to community engagement.