



BOARD REPORT

Friday, June 26, 2015



Medical Officer of Health

REPORT TO THE BOARD

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Ontario Special Needs Strategy

In February 2014, the Ministries of Children and Youth Service (MCYS), Community and Social Services (MCSS), Education (EDU) and Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC) launched the *Ontario Special Needs Strategy* to improve services for children and youth with multiple and/or complex special needs in Ontario guided by the following vision: “An Ontario where children and youth with special needs get the timely and effective services they need to participate fully at home, at school, in the community and as they prepare to achieve their goals for adulthood.”

The Health Unit is not largely affected by this new initiative except in our programs funded through the MCYS; Healthy Babies/Healthy Children and Preschool Speech and Language and Infant Hearing Program. There is also a small involvement of our MOHLTC Dental programs for children with complex dental needs. However, we have been working with the key agencies involved to plan and will continue to work with them to implement the vision.

The *Special Needs Strategy* (SNS) includes:

- A new standard developmental screen for preschool children;
- Coordinated family-centered service planning for children and youth with multiple and/or complex special needs; and
- An integrated approach to the delivery of rehabilitation services (speech-language therapy, occupational therapy and physiotherapy).

As a result of this work, in each service delivery area:

- Families will know where to go when they have a concern about their child’s development;
- Children and youth with special needs will be identified and supported as early as possible, in particular, before entry to school;
- Children and youth with multiple and/or complex special needs and their families will have access to coordinated service planning ; and
- Children and youth with rehabilitation service needs will receive seamless and effective speech-language therapy, occupational therapy and physiotherapy services as they move into and through school.

Coordinated service planning will be composed of three key elements:

- A single coordinating Agency (Keystone – Child, Youth and Family Services)
- Dedicated Service Planning Coordinators, through Keystone who will work with the families and individuals and the service agencies; and

- One coordinated service plan for each child/youth that takes into account all of his/her goals, strengths, needs, as well as all of the services that the person is and will be receiving.

It has been difficult to estimate the number of children in Grey Bruce that would benefit from this strategy but the working number has been around 1,700. The Grey Bruce proposal has been submitted to the Province and we look forward to working with our partners to make this improvement.

Hazel Lynn

Program Report JUNE 2015



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We work with the Grey Bruce community to protect and promote health.

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Tanning Beds

It has been a year since the *Skin Cancer Prevention Act* came into effect to ban the use of tanning beds by youth under the age of 18. In Grey Bruce, there are 19 premises with tanning beds. All locations were provided with education and signage regarding the legislation.

The legislation:

- Prohibits the sale, advertising and marketing of tanning services to youth under 18;
- Requires tanning bed operators request identification from anyone who appears under 25 years old;
- Requires tanning bed operators to post signs stating that the ban on minors and the health risks of tanning bed use;
- Requires that all tanning bed operators provide written notice of their location and business contact information to their local Medical Officer of Health;
- Sets fines for tanning bed owners/operators who fail to comply; and
- Authorizes inspectors to inspect and enforce these requirements.



There is a growing body of evidence to indicate a strong link between indoor tanning and skin cancer. In 2009, the World Health Organization classified tanning beds in its highest risk category along with asbestos and tobacco. Exposure to tanning beds before age 35 increases the risk of melanoma by 75%. Use of a tanning bed, even once, is associated with increased risk of melanoma by 15%. Tanning beds have as much as 14 times higher ultraviolet UV A and 4 times higher UV B doses above what would be expected in midday sun.

Panorama Inventory Goes Online

Grey Bruce Health Unit and Peel Health Unit are the first two sites in Ontario to implement the new Panorama Inventory software connecting the Ontario Government Pharmacy and Public Health. This direct connect allows Health Units to order and monitor inventory and return expired vaccine/medications. Previously these procedures required fax and manual tabulations. The new program provides immediate inventory reports eliminating the requirement for manual counts.

The program also streamlines ordering of vaccines, sexually transmitted infection medication and tuberculosis medication. Prior to Panorama Inventory, ordering was carried out separately by different staff members. Ordering and delivery will now be combined and through one staff member. The centralized ordering and inventory process enhances safety with all medications and vaccines stored in one central locked room. Access to the room will be limited to the Inventory Clerk and nursing staff working directly in the program area.

Grey Bruce Health Unit will act as a mentor organization for other Ontario Health Units implementing Panorama Inventory module.



Check It!



On January 1, 2015, the Grey Bruce Health Unit launched *Check It!* an online food inspection disclosure program through the health unit website. From January 1 to April 30, 975 users visited the site with each user typically spending approximately five minutes. As inspections are conducted throughout the year, result will be added to the database. The site will maintain a two-year history of inspection reports.

A food inspection disclosure system benefits both the public and food premises operators. The disclosure provides public access to food premises reports carried out by Public Health Inspectors. This information supports public awareness around food safety and promotes increased operator compliance with food safety standards to reduce the risk of food-borne illness.

Inspection results are summarized into six categories. The report will indicate if the premise was in compliance, if improvement is needed, or if the category was not applicable to that facility.

- Refrigeration and freezer temperatures
- Cooking and hot holding temperatures
- Food protected from contamination

- Utensils and equipment properly cleaned and sanitized
- Food handler hygiene (including hand washing)
- Premises clean and properly maintained

Reports will be available through *Check It!* for the following types of food establishments:

- General food premises, i.e. restaurants, cafeterias, deli, grocery stores, bakeries
- Institutional food service premises, i.e. hospitals, nursing homes, schools
- Mobile food service premises, i.e. hot dog carts, chip trucks

Check It! will not provide reports for special events or a food premises exempt from the Ontario Food Premises Regulation, 562.

Enhanced Public Safety and Emergency Response

The regulatory requirements governing nuclear facilities changed last year. One of the changes relates to emergency preparedness issues, affecting the procedures planned by both local municipalities and Health Units. In this region, the changes affected Bruce Power, the Municipality of Kincardine, the Grey Bruce Health Unit, and other municipalities and residents around the Bruce Power site.

The affected agencies have been working together since late 2014 to ensure the most effective rollout of the updated procedures. It was acknowledged early on that our region is significantly different from the communities around nuclear facilities in Pickering and Darlington and our local plans reflected those differences. Although all working to the same timelines, our regional group was able to develop a plan and start implementation a little quicker than those in the GTA.

The local response to these changes includes enhancements to the communication methods currently in place. These include a new website <http://www.bepreparedgreybrucehuron.com>, a new information video, an FM alert system and SMS text capabilities. Central to the Public Health role is a revised method for the distribution of Potassium Iodide (KI) – a thyroid-blocking tablet for protection from radioiodine. Although a stockpile of KI has existed for some time, the new system includes pre-distribution to residents through an expanded number of venues. The first stage of these changes started in April 2015 with a series of public information sessions and providing KI tablets to residents within 10km of Bruce Power. By May, over 20% of residents in this area have obtained their KI tablets. As the process continues throughout 2015, there will be the opportunity for residents within a 50km radius to pick up KI tablets, as well as additional efforts to present public safety messaging.



Ontario Early Years Centres Staff Training

To support the alignment of maternal and child health resources towards a population health approach, the Grey Bruce Health Unit provided two training sessions for staff of the Grey Bruce Ontario Early Years Centres (OEYC) during May. Two Public Health Nurses developed a set of fifteen curricula that OEYC staff could deliver to parents attending their sites. Binders contain all of the Baby Group Curricula organized in a user-friendly way, as well as examples of the Health Unit resources that go to support each curriculum topic. Each binder also comes with a CD providing electronic versions of all of the binder contents. Additionally, Public Health Nurses are available to support OEYC staff for issues beyond the scope of the curricula. This training has increased the capacity within the community of providing current evidence-based information to parents with newborns.

