

TO: Chair and Members of the Board of Health

FROM: Dr. Gayane Hovhannisyan, Acting Medical Officer of Health
Laura Di Cesare, Acting Chief Executive Officer

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THE CANADIAN NURSE-FAMILY PARTNERSHIP EDUCATION (CaNE) PROJECT UPDATE

Recommendation

It is recommended that Report No. 019-17 re: The Canadian Nurse-Family Partnership Education (CaNE) Project Update be received for information.

Key Points

- The Nurse Family Partnership® (NFP) is an evidence-based home visiting program targeting young, low-income, first-time mothers.
- The Canadian Nurse-Family Partnership Education (CaNE) project aims to develop, pilot and evaluate a Canadian model of education for NFP nurses and supervisors.
- CaNE pilot sites are recruiting clients to the NFP program after having completed the foundational NFP education requirements and are working with the CaNE research team on evaluation.

Background

The Nurse-Family Partnership® (NFP) is an intensive home visiting program for young, low-income, first-time mothers. The NFP has been evaluated in three randomized controlled trials (RCTs) in the USA, which have demonstrated positive effects on the outcomes of pregnancy, children's subsequent health and development, and parents' economic self-sufficiency. The NFP's strong evidentiary foundation has led to international implementation and evaluation. Steps are currently underway to adapt and evaluate the NFP to the Canadian context. From 2008 to 2012, the City of Hamilton Public Health Services and McMaster University collaborated on a pilot study to determine the feasibility and acceptability of delivering the NFP to Ontario families. Following the pilot study, an RCT to test the NFP's effectiveness in Canada commenced in British Columbia in 2013, with results expected in 2019.

The Canadian Nurse-Family Partnership Education (CaNE) Project

In 2015, the CaNE Project was launched to develop, pilot and evaluate a Canadian model of education for public health nurses and managers responsible for delivering the NFP, thus making it possible for additional health units to offer the NFP Program in Ontario. The CaNE Project is funded by a \$351,000 grant from the Local Poverty Reduction Fund, as well as in-kind and moderate funding contributions from participating health units. The Ministry of Children and Youth Services approved the allocation of NFP nurses, managers and administrative staff from the Healthy Babies Healthy Children (HBHC) Program to implement the NFP for the duration of the project. The CaNE Project is a collaboration between the Middlesex-London Health Unit (MLHU), the City of Toronto (Public Health Division), the Regional Municipality of York (Public Health Branch), the City of Hamilton (Public Health Services), NFP International (University of Colorado) and McMaster University. The MLHU is the lead organization for the CaNE project, and, along with the City of Toronto (Public Health Division) and the Regional Municipality of York (Public Health Branch), is participating in the CaNE model of NFP education and will subsequently implement the NFP program. A provincial clinical lead was seconded from the City of Hamilton (Public Health Services) to develop and

coordinate the CaNE education (in collaboration with the NFP international consultant from the University of Colorado) and to provide NFP implementation support at the designated sites. McMaster University has been contracted as a third-party evaluator to complete an evaluation of the project.

Education, Evaluation and Implementation

NFP's success depends on preserving the integrity of the NFP model, which is achieved through public health nurses skilled in delivering the NFP home-visiting model. Public health nurses and managers from the three CaNE implementation sites completed approximately sixty hours of online education, followed by a full week of face-to-face training in January–February 2017. Managers completed an additional forty hours of online training, with four days of face-to-face education, in March 2017. Ongoing training and education continues, with job-shadowing opportunities for PHNs and managers with the NFP team in Hamilton and site-specific, team-based learning modules.

The CaNE evaluation will measure: 1) the feasibility and acceptability of education content and methods, as well as changes in knowledge and clinical practice, and 2) the extent to which the NFP program is delivered with fidelity to the eighteen required Canadian core model elements. The research team at McMaster University has recently received Research Ethics Board approval for the CaNE project evaluation, and are now working with participating health units to facilitate research ethics approval within their organizations.

MLHU's NFP team has been raising awareness about the NFP program among service providers, community partners and the public, building support for its implementation in the Middlesex-London community and promoting the NFP program referral process. CaNE implementation sites began recruiting clients to the NFP program at the end of February, 2017. In the first month of implementation, fifteen referrals have been made to the NFP program at MLHU, of which nine have consented to participate in it. Program data is being collected to guide clinical practice and supervision, assess and guide program implementation, enhance program quality and demonstrate program fidelity.

Provincial Advisory Committee

The Provincial Advisory Committee (PAC) was formed to facilitate collaboration, policy and practice consultation, and ongoing communication among the various stakeholders on relevant aspects of the CaNE project. The PAC membership includes representation from the Registered Nurses Association of Ontario, Public Health Ontario, the Ontario Ministry of Children and Youth Services, the British Columbia Ministry of Health, the Offord Centre for Child Studies, and all CaNE partners. The next PAC meeting is planned for September 2017, following a meeting in June 2017 involving stakeholders from B.C. and Ontario to discuss national governance of the NFP Program in Canada.

Next Steps

Through the collaborative efforts of a number of partners, significant progress has been made in moving the CaNE project forward. A final online education module will be developed for the third phase of NFP learning, and will be implemented later in 2017. NFP program recruitment will continue in Middlesex-London, with the goal of engaging eighty participants. Once internal research ethics approval is finalized at each participating health unit, evaluation will be launched and continue throughout the project's duration. Project reports will continue to be provided to our funders, as required. It is hoped that the evaluation results will complement efforts elsewhere in the country to determine the future of the NFP program in Canada.

This report was submitted by the Nurse-Family Partnership Team, Healthy Start.



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