



Update Re: Changes Planned for the Provincial Council for Children's Health

In the Fall PCCH announced some upcoming changes to our name and mandate. We want to take this opportunity to update you as to our progress in the transition to the new Council.

New Working Title:

Provincial Council for Maternal, Newborn, Child and Youth Health Care

Although the new Council will review and recommend a final name, this working title reflects the broadened mandate and range of the organization.

New Scope and Role:

The reconfigured and renamed Provincial Council recognizes the continuum of care within the maternal, newborn, child and youth health care system in Ontario. Its scope is secondary, tertiary and quaternary services delivered in both community and hospital settings, and includes responding to the needs of disadvantaged communities across Ontario. The work of the Council will reflect the importance of relationships and interfaces among providers and organizations across the continuum of care. Council's overall goal is to support the development of a system that provides timely, equitable, accessible, high quality, evidence-based, family-centred care in an efficient and effective manner.

The Council will have two distinct roles. First, it is an expert advisory body responding to the needs of the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care and other Ministries on issues, priorities, and strategies for the maternal, newborn, child and youth health care system in Ontario. Secondly, it is a resource to maternal, newborn, child and youth health care in this province to support system improvement.

Functions:

The Council will fulfill its roles through:

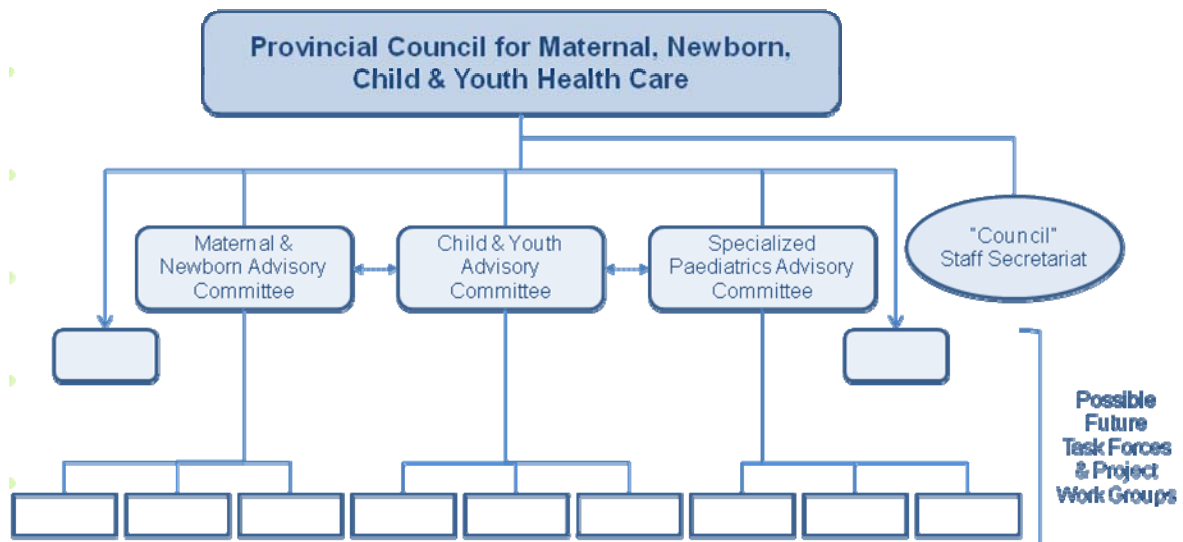
- i) Generating strategic advice for the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care and other Ministries through research and analysis, including input from expert panels, work groups, forums, and consultations with stakeholders as appropriate;
- ii) Identifying and advising on evidence-based best practices in maternal, newborn, child and youth health care services;
- iii) Addressing provincial alignment and coordination of planning for maternal, newborn, child and youth health care services in Ontario;

- iv) Serving as a provincial resource to support planning for health human resources in the maternal, newborn, child and youth health care system;
- v) Promoting innovations in the delivery of care across the health care continuum to improve the health and health care of mothers, newborns, children, youth and families;
- vi) Supporting knowledge transfer to current and future maternal, newborn, child and youth health care professionals; and
- vii) Interfacing with the regional child health networks and other stakeholders as appropriate to facilitate the implementation and adoption of approved initiatives.

Reporting Relationships and Accountabilities:

The Council reports to the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care and to other Ministries and stakeholders as required in relation to any additional project work which Council accepts and approves.

New Structures of the Council:



Current Stage of Transition:

The Provincial Maternal-Newborn Advisory Committee (PM-NAC) has been in place since June, 2008 and is hard at work on its mandate. PM-NAC has approved the report of the Fetal Fibronectin Work Group. The report of the Infection Prevention and Control Work Group is nearing completion. The Retinopathy of Prematurity Work Group has advised on a pilot for remote screening for ROP which is now underway with Sudbury Regional Hospital as the sending site and SickKids as the reading site. The Access to Services Work Group is well underway. A significant survey of all maternal-newborn services in the province was completed in November and the first round of hospital site visits is scheduled for February. The Transportation Work Group is about to convene in February. Look for more detail about the work of PM-NAC in the next e-newsletter, due out in February.

In late November, PCCH issued a call for Expressions of Interest for individuals who are able to think broadly about the health care system for the new Council. We were delighted to receive 86 Expressions of Interest for the 9 available positions on Council.

We convened a Nominations Committee to undertake the daunting task of reviewing the Expressions of Interest and recommending nine individuals to the MOHLTC as the inaugural members of the New Council. The Nominations Committee members were:

- Mary Jo Haddad, President and CEO, SickKids and Chair, PCCH/PCMNCYHC
- Andrew Shennan, Medical Vice-President, Perinatal and Gynaecology Program, Sunnybrook and former co-chair, Ontario Perinatal Partnership (OP3)
- Peter Steer, Formerly President of McMaster Children's Hospital and Chief of Pediatrics at McMaster Children's Hospital and St. Joseph's Healthcare in Hamilton, Professor and Chair of the Department of Pediatrics at McMaster University.
- Roger Strasser, Founding Dean, Northern Ontario School of Medicine
- Marilyn Booth, Executive Director, PCCH/PCMNCYHC

As per the Terms of Reference, the overall composition of the Council should reflect a balance of skills and expertise needed for the Council to fulfill its roles and responsibilities. Membership as a whole should reflect the scope of the Council including: the continuum of secondary to quaternary care; the spectrum of maternal, newborn, child, and youth health care services; community and institutional settings for the delivery of care; professional disciplines; rural, urban and remote perspectives; and the diversity of the communities served.

The Nominations Committee members were asked to review candidates for evidence of the following:

- Familiarity with or knowledge of the Ontario system of maternal, newborn, and/or child and youth health care:
 - Clinical leadership in academic health science centres, community hospitals, and community settings;
 - Administrative leadership in academic health science centres, community hospitals, and community settings;
 - Expertise in maternal and newborn care, and in child and youth care;
 - Expertise in health human resources education, training, and manpower planning.
- Ability to provide linkages to groups and organizations in the system of maternal, newborn, child and youth health care
- Systems thinking;
- An understanding of the scope and roles of the Council;
- An understanding of the obligation to act in the best interests of the Ontario system of maternal, newborn, child and youth health care as a whole;

- Ability to work and communicate effectively as a member of the Council with other members of the Council and the staff of the Council; and
- Ability and willingness to commit the necessary time to participate in Council meetings, committee meetings, retreats and events, and meeting preparation.

Given the number and excellence of the applicants, the Nominations Committee had a very difficult task. I thank each of the members for their assistance in this stage of the PCCH transition.

The names of the recommended nominees were forwarded to the MOHLTC and have been approved. Letters will be going out to all who submitted Expressions of Interest in the next few days.

We have also taken advantage of the wealth of expressed interest in the Council to identify individuals who will be invited to serve as the inaugural members of the Child and Youth Advisory Committee (CYAC). As with the Provincial Maternal-Newborn Advisory Committee, membership in CYAC will be LHIN-based in order to ensure that all areas of the province are represented by individuals from a variety of disciplines and care settings across the continuum. Those letters of invitation will also go out in the next few days.

Once we have had confirmation from the invitees to both Council and the Child and Youth Advisory Committee we will formally announce the membership of those groups.

We have opted to wait until Council meets for the first time to discuss the recommended Specialized Paediatrics Advisory Committee. We want to give some focused attention to how best to ensure that the perspectives of the children's hospitals are provided to Council and to the merits of two Advisory Committees focused on children and youth.

We are planning to hold the first Council meeting in March. Stay tuned for more information as we move forward.

Thank you for your commitment, support and interest in the issue of comprehensive and coordinated health care for mothers, newborns, children and youth in our province. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Best wishes,



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