



Actively Building Capacity in Interdisciplinary Primary Health Care Research Project

Collaborating Partners:

- Queen's University, Department of Family Medicine
- University of Toronto, Department of Community and Family Medicine
- The University of Western Ontario, Department of Family Medicine
- McMaster University, Department of Family Medicine
- Northern Ontario School of Medicine

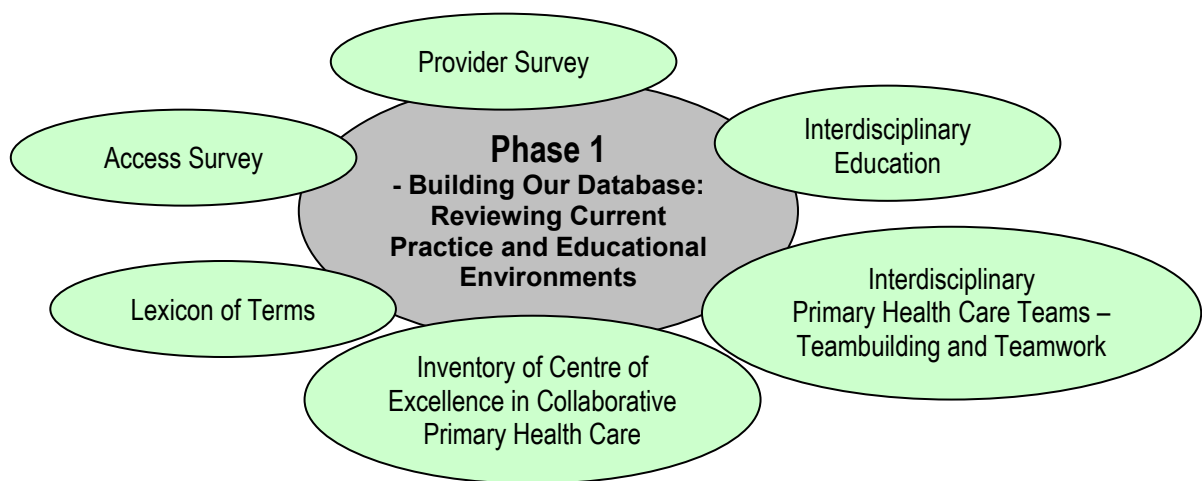


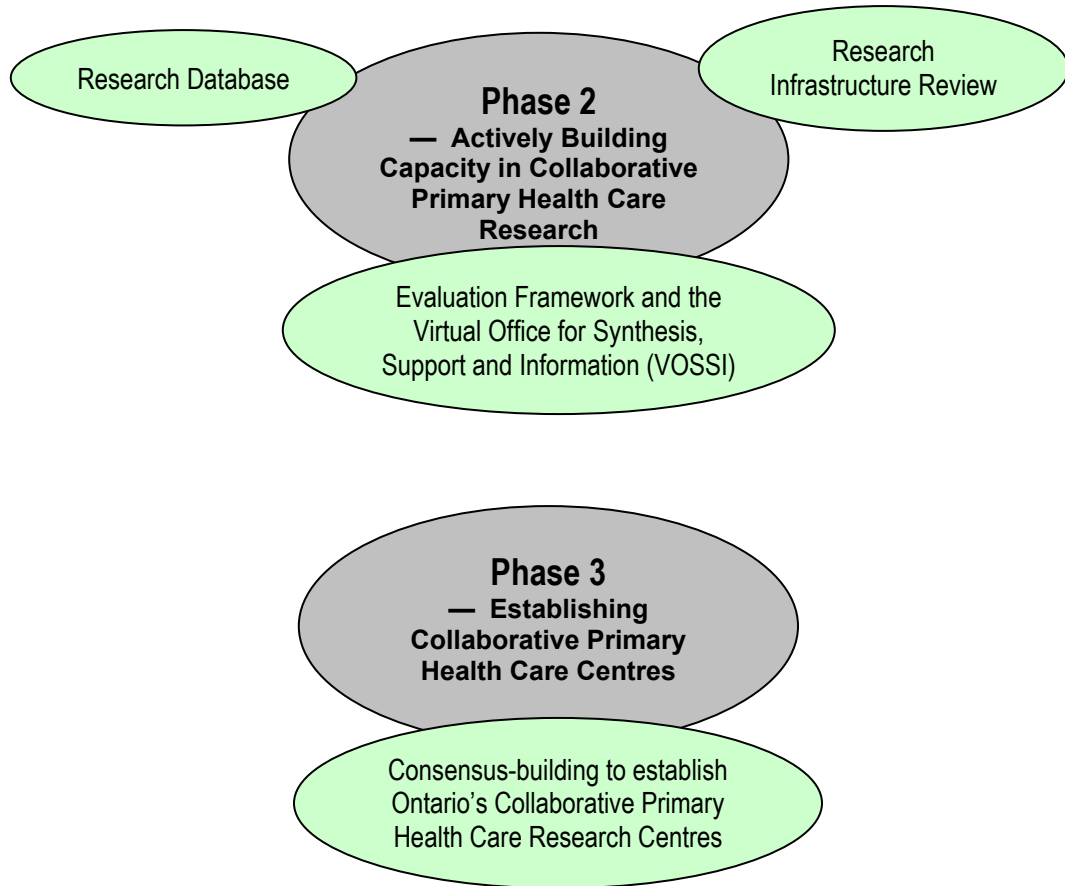
Project Description:

The project encompasses: a review of human resource databases to determine their strengths in identifying current primary care providers and in forecasting further need; research regarding public access to primary care; identification of facilitators and barriers to interdisciplinary team practices, especially related to prevention and promotion; a taxonomy of primary care terms; identification of centres of excellence in primary care; an inventory of interdisciplinary primary health care educational programs; the development of an evaluation framework for primary health care and a knowledge exchange process for primary health care evaluation; documentation of current primary care interdisciplinary research and recommendations for the establishment of Primary Care Research Centres.

The outcomes of this project will contribute to an appropriately designed and sustainable Primary Health Care System. The twin pillars of the project are a comprehensive and necessary data to ensure that the clinical and educational programs being developed and implemented will maximize the provision of primary health care for the citizens of Ontario. The other cornerstone of the project is the formation of a broadly based research consortium encompassing all of the partner disciplines aimed at developing Centres for Collaborative Primary Health Care Research in conjunction with the university Departments of Family Medicine and an evaluation framework and support system in which to conduct collaborative primary health care research.

The project is divided into three phases:





Project Status:

We have successfully undertaken the following activities:

- Completed contract negotiation with MOHLTC and subcontracts with the Universities (OCFP).
- Established our Steering Committee (OCFP).
- Hosted a meeting to launch the project and introduce it to all of the Chairs of faculties that educate primary health care professionals (OCFP).
- Completed the hiring of project staff at each of the participating universities (OCFP & Universities).
- Conducted a Steering Committee meeting in June 2005 (OCFP).
- Developed the Lexicon of primary care terms, circulated it widely for feedback and buy-in, and produced the second draft of the Lexicon of primary care terms (Queen's).
- Completed focus groups of 10 primary healthcare/primary care practitioners, of the lexicon (Queen's).
- Contacted project members and other stakeholders provincially, nationally and internationally requesting that they identify centres of excellence in collaborative primary healthcare based on information from literature review on collaboration; identified nominees for Centres of Excellence in Interdisciplinary Collaborative Practices; and received feedback regarding identifying centres of excellence in collaborative primary health care. A process to validate the nominees is being developed and planning strategy for analyzing practices has begun (Queen's).
- Completed the literature review for key research articles on primary care. A process to select the key articles is being developed (Queen's).
- An environmental scan and literature review was conducted for Health Canada on Interprofessional Education for Collaborative Patient Centred Practice (IECPCP). The literature review conducted included literature up until November 2003. To update the information, a librarian has been hired to search literature on a monthly basis to keep us current with what is being found in the literature, and to assist in developing a typology of



terms that may be best used for searching for information in Interprofessional Education (IPE) and collaborative practice (CP). A report updating the literature review conducted will be completed by December of 2005 (U of T).

- Developed a position paper entitled “Key Elements for Interprofessional Education Part A: The Learner, the Educator and the Learning Context.” (U of T).
- Developed survey/focus groups for identification of current practices in interdisciplinary education for primary care providers and identified other Interprofessional Educational Projects to enhance learning opportunities (U of T). Focus groups with educational leaders are being scheduled (U of T).
- Developed a process for developing recommendations for future needs at the Universities/Colleges to better support the education of health care professions to work in interdisciplinary primary care teams (U of T).
- Brought together a group of educational leaders to advance IPE opportunities in primary care in collaboration with the University of Toronto’s ABC team that included health professional representatives from each of the six regions of Ontario who met by teleconference and then in person in May, to consider formalizing goals to move curricula development forward. The team discussed the feasibility of coordinating a grant proposal for Health Canada’s second call. However, it was decided that interim steps are required. In response, U of T is overseeing the development and roll-out of a readiness study at each of the universities.
- Created a database of all educational institutions and professions involved in training primary care providers, as well as a database of IPE programs in Ontario and across Canada (U of T).
- Disseminated surveys at the IPE conference and additional information collected around both IPE and CP initiatives (U of T).
- Examined several national and provincial data bases and identified their relevant primary healthcare professional provider variables; drafted a report regarding the review of provider surveys and databases (UWO).
- Identified crude estimates of the number of healthcare practitioners in Ontario for the professional Colleges of interest to the MOHLTC (family physicians, nurses, pharmacists, dietitians, and social workers) (UWO).
- Obtained UWO Ethics Review Board approval to gain access to and use as a survey mailing list the College membership data ; then obtained electronic copies of the individual Colleges’ membership data, entered the mailing address data into electronic format if not available electronically, and made corrections to ensure the accuracy of the health professional data set (UWO).
- Used the College defined workplace data available from their membership renewal data to make estimations about the number of healthcare professionals practicing primary health care (UWO).
- Piloted the final survey and sent it for final ethics review to the UWO Research Review Board; prepared for first stage of the mail-out of surveys and hired staff and summer students to assist with this (UWO).
- Completed the recruitment of Family Health Networks and Community Health Centres (UWO).
 - Conducted 103 in-depth interviews with interdisciplinary healthcare team members across Ontario (UWO). The associated 103 audiotaped interviews were transcribed and field note documentation were composed (UWO). With respect to its analysis, a line-by-line analysis of 50 transcripts was completed, 25 transcripts and line-by-line analysis were inputted into NVIVO system, and an initial draft of participant demographics was completed (UWO).
 - Developing a process for identifying the means for better linking public health and primary care (OCFP).
- Presented three paper presentations at the Trillium Research Day were delivered, and abstracts were submitted and accepted for paper presentations for NAPCRG in October 2005 to help disseminate information (UWO).
- Begun to identify examples of Research Centre Models (McMaster).
- Negotiated with NOSM to complete the evaluation framework (Virtual Office for Synthesis, Support and Information, VOSSI) and project evaluation pieces, and transferred responsibility from University of Ottawa to NOSM (OCFP).
- Developed and in process of conducting a survey regarding the development of an evaluation framework to continually monitor/evaluate interdisciplinary primary care practices e.g. VOSSI (NOSM).

