Aboriginal Health Planning Session: Notes, Comments and Recommendations

Engagement Details:

Date: Wednesday, October 19, 2011
Time: 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
Location: Waterloo Wellington Local Health Integration Network (WWLHIN) Office 50 Sportsworld Crossing Rd. Suite 200, Kitchener, ON N2P 0A4
RSVPs: 21
Participants: 13 (Inclusive of representatives from the Aboriginal community and Health Service Providers (HSPs) from the community support services sector.
Attendees:

Bruce Lauckner, CEO, WWLHIN
Suzanne Morrison, Community Engagement Coordinator, WWLHIN
France Tolhurst, French Language Services Coordinator, WWLHIN

Jean Becker, Wilfrid Laurier University
Laura Becotte, Trinity Village
Rosslyn Bentley, Hospice Wellington
Cheryll Lee Foon, Grand River Métis Council
Melissa Ireland, Wilfrid Laurier University
Kelly Laurilla, Traditional Indigenous Peoples' Initiatives of Waterloo-Wellington
Al McDonald, Traditional Indigenous Peoples' Initiatives of Waterloo-Wellington
Carol Nath, Grand River Métis Council
Chandra Rice, Advisor, Hamilton Niagra Haldimand Brant LHIN
Caroll Taylor, Alzheimer's Society (Representing Kitchener-Waterloo, Cambridge and Guelph branches)

Notes and comments from participants:

- Vision of Aboriginal Health in Waterloo Wellington:
  - Wholistic
  - Empowering
  - Natural
  - Needs trust and partnership
  - Inclusive
  - Based on the whole person (spiritual, emotional, mental, physical)
  - Need for champions and leaders within the Aboriginal community which is lacking.

- General comments:
  - Thankful for taking a traditional and cultural approach to facilitation
  - Conversations had gaps and it was recognized that attendance from the four of the five Aboriginal organizations as well as a wider representation of HSPs was lacking.
    - After the gaps in the conversation were identified, the group shifted the discussion to identifying an approach for improved engagement, so that a fuller conversation could be had about how to create an action plan.
  - The WWLHIN needs to acknowledge the process issues that took place while completing the health needs assessment in order to move forward with building trusting relationships

Recommendations from participants:

1. Continue to engage the Aboriginal community about the Health Needs Assessment, but do so in a way that builds trust, respect and demonstrates commitment.
2. Take a "road show" approach to distribute the Health Needs Assessment, travel with the report to the community agencies and at events.
3. Develop a plan to inform health service providers about the Aboriginal Health Needs Assessment, and how they can better engage and work with the local Aboriginal community.
4. Approach the WWLHIN networks to inform and educate about Aboriginal engagement and health planning.
5. Consider coordinating health fairs within the Aboriginal community as a way of building relationships with the community and HSPs as well as developing trust.

Meegwetch to all who participated in this session!