



Project Work and the Community Health Nurse

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Care**



Purpose

- To share our experiences as community nurses engaging in project work (particularly around Hepatitis C) for the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care



Background

- **Who we are**
 - **London InterCommunity Health Centre**
 - **CHCs**
 - **Sue's Hep C Support Group**



Background

- **Creation of Hepatitis C Secretariat – April, 2005**
- **Community Meetings – winter 2006-2007**
- **Community Plans – summer 2007**



Our Methodology

- **Key Informant interviews**
 - Snowball sampling
 - 17 interviews with physicians, nurses, community workers, administrators advocates, and persons living with HCV



Our Recommendations (in brief)

- Summarised existing services
- Gap in coordination of care
 - Leads to lack of access to testing, education, treatment and support
- Lack of knowledge
 - Providers/patients/public
- Insufficient harm reduction services
- Limitations of surveillance and research



Successes

- (disclaimer)
- AIDS Committee of London – expanded mandate
- Canadian AIDS Treatment Information Exchange (CATIE) – expanded mandate



Successes

- Liaison with hospital based hepatologist for community based care
- Continuation of HCV support group
- Planning of staff information session
- Planning of comprehensive screening



Successes

- Staff education re: harm reduction
- London CARES study and the focus on harm reduction
- Liaison with Methadone clinic
- Plan for anonymous testing at Options clinic



Successes

- Local shelter willing to consider housing issues during treatment
- Liaison with social services addictions team



Barriers

- **Turf wars**
- **Schedules**
- **Sceptics**



Where from here? (our biggest success?)

- Over \$100,000,000 committed to addressing HCV in Ontario
- RFPs imminent – we are prepared



Lessons Learned

- Ministry funded project work **is** worth the time, and a great way for nurses to impact programs and policies



Questions?