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# Cultivating Knowledge, Building Capacity and Maximizing Impact

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Closing the Gap Between Research,  
Practice and Reality

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# Overview & Objectives

- Explore successful partnering for a collaborative, structured and managed approach toward the integration of relevant evidence into practice
- Highlight the need to bridge disciplinary boundaries to support the effective uptake and utilization of best available evidence
- Examine strategies to foster professional, organizational and program synergy
- Reinforce the ongoing need to build research capacity and evaluate outcomes to direct future public health practices

# Partnering for Research

## Integration

- Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario (RNAO) - Best Practice Guidelines (BPGs) for Nurses
- Best Practice Spotlight Organization (BPSO) Initiative – funding support from Ministry of Health and Long Term Care (MOHLTC)
- 3 year process – both commit financial and expert resources
- Implement, evaluate and share lessons learned from experiences and research findings
- Focus on positive health, professional, process and system outcomes

# Niagara Region Public Health Proposal Submission

- Generated through Nursing Practice Council with Chief Nursing Officer support
- Ensured key stakeholder engagement – aligned project with regional obesity strategy
- Focus on building on existing culture of evidence appreciation and commitment to quality outcomes
- Desire to showcase leadership and innovation in public health

# BPSO Candidate

- March 2006 – March 2009 – NRPH part of second cycle of BPSO candidates
- Initial cycle (2003 -2006) resulted in 9 BPSO designated organizations
- First and only public health unit in Ontario (1 of 12 successful organizations)
- Project Lead and Project Coordinator positions determined

# Best Practice Commitment

## NRPH

- ❑ Implementation and evaluation of selected BPGs
- ❑ Designated project contacts for monthly teleconferences and symposiums
- ❑ Champions Network participation
- ❑ RNAO Summer Institute attendance
- ❑ Fellowship proposals
- ❑ Abstract submissions
- ❑ Publication/manuscript
- ❑ Status reports
- ❑ Research collaboration

## RNAO/MOHLTC

- ❑ Designated staff liaison
- ❑ Funding as per project terms
- ❑ Facilitation and funding of formal research projects
- ❑ Access to and use of developed materials
- ❑ Provision of opportunities for sharing knowledge and experiences

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# Best Practice Guidelines (BPGs)

4 BPGs selected for implementation:

- ❑ Breastfeeding Best Practice Guidelines for Nurses
- ❑ Primary Prevention of Childhood Obesity
- ❑ Enhancing Healthy Adolescent Development
- ❑ Client Centred Care

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# Project Vision

***“Practice excellence...  
...professional distinction”***

Leadership and innovation in public health for enhancing evidence informed practice to support decision making and maximize professional and health outcomes.

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# Project Focus

- Structured dissemination of evidence supported public health practices to enhance organizational synergy, increase health professional satisfaction and build quality population health outcomes.

# Project Structure



# Collaborating for Integration

<p><b>Nursing Practice Council</b>          Proposal consultation          Monitor Project Activities          Chief Nursing Officer leadership          Mandated Program Activities/Professional Standards</p> <p><b>Project Lead/Project Coordinator</b>          Plan and direct project activities/Contract deliverables          RNAO liaison for teleconferences, BPSO related events          Report submission          Organizational communication          Facilitate staff education and training          Resource allocation</p>	<p><b>Best Practice Champions</b>  <b>Practice Excellence Team</b>          PHNs and Health Promoters          Lead and support program specific implementation          Information sharing between program and project          Promotion of RNAO associated professional opportunities          Incorporation of RNAO Toolkit to guide implementation          Program specific evaluation strategy</p>
<p><b>Program Management</b>  <b>Program Members</b>          Support and participation in implementation initiatives          Multi-disciplinary approach encouraged          Review of current practices and identify priorities          Revision of practice, policy, documentation as indicated          Integrate into orientation, reflective practice and performance review          Link to CQI activities</p>	<p><b>Research Partners</b>  <b>SHARE</b>          Design and direct formal evaluation of BPG implementation          RNAO research fund distribution          Ensure ethics reciprocity          Collaboration for presentation of research</p>

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# Challenges

- Remarkably similar across all BPSO candidates
- Human and material resources
- Competing priority projects
- Contradictory interpretations of “best practices”
- “Pockets” of implementation

# Rewards

- ❑ Research opportunities specific to public health
- ❑ Creation of an effective framework for supporting efficient and effective evidence integration and knowledge sharing
- ❑ Guide decision-making and service delivery
- ❑ Represent public health within professional and educational contexts
- ❑ Access to project associated partnerships, training and resources

# In the Spotlight

- Leadership strategy presentations at Nursing Leadership Network of Ontario Conference, International Conference on Evidence-Based Guidelines and Canadian Nurses' Association Biennial Conference
- Public Health implementation experiences presented at RNAO Summer Institute
- Funded research projects with both Brock University and the University of Ottawa
- Advanced Practice Fellowships awarded to 3 program nursing staff (Infectious Disease, Reproductive Health, Community Mental Health)
- Continued to build internal network of “Best Practice Champions” through RNAO workshop attendance (22 champions)
- Work highlighted in provincial nursing publication

# Key Learning

- Effective research partnerships
- Disciplinary inclusion
- Need to tailor to context/practice need (flexible)
- Multi-level communication
- Stakeholder engagement not a linear process
  - engage, re-engage and “disengage”
- Celebrate milestones
- Complement practice - not always change

# Sustainability – What Next?

- BPSO designation - potential to enhance recruitment and retention initiatives
- Mentoring fellow public health units
- Nurture and maintain partnerships
- Nursing Practice Council (standing agenda item/terms of reference)
- CQI portfolio
- “Best Practices” package for program managers
- Orientation and student/staff review inclusion
- Intranet site (Nursing 411) – e-mail messaging
- Build library resource section

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# Questions?

Presentation copy requests:

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