

North West LHIN – September 29, 2010

Increased Services to Individuals with Acquired Brain Injuries

Steps are being taken to enhance community outreach capacity and service coordination for residents with an acquired brain injury.

Informed by existing referral patterns and volume pressures, the North West LHIN has funded Brain Injury Services of Northern Ontario (BISNO) to establish new services across the region this fall, including:

- The establishment of a District Facilitator in Dryden, Sioux Lookout, Fort Frances, and on the North Shore area of Lake Superior.

The District Facilitators will provide structured support to individuals in all aspects of their community life. The goal is to maximize the client's overall level of functioning and independence.

- A Facilitator and a Team Leader to join the Healthy Lifestyles Group in Thunder Bay. This program focuses on clients with an acquired brain injury and an addiction. It has shown impressive results regarding clients' success in the community and avoidance of emergency department visits.
- A Family Therapist will work with families and existing therapists in the region to provide training and support.
- An expansion of the Intake Coordinator position at BISNO will help to enhance coordination and navigation of ABI services.

This enhancement of community capacity will benefit clients with mild to moderate impairment.

These new services are timely as the recent distribution of an ABI Screening Tool by BISNO across the North West LHIN is expected to significantly increase the volume of referrals to the organization.

Fast Facts

- In 2010, applications for service from BISNO increased to 67 from 19 the previous year.
- One-third of the applications were from Aboriginal applicants.
- As of September 2010, BISNO had a wait list of 51 individuals:
 - 36 in Thunder Bay
 - 15 from the district (including north shore and Kenora/Rainy River)
 - 16 are from a First Nations community

