From a Foot in the Door to a Seat at the Table: Embedding Medical Librarians in Knowledge Exchange Networks

Embedding Medical Librarians in Knowledge Exchange Networks

Presented by librarians from the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH):

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at the Ontario Library Association Super Conference February 2, 2017

What we'll cover today

- Library Services at CAMH

- What it means to be "embedded"

- Two CAMH initiatives

    - Project ECHO

    - Portico

- Questions

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Library Services at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH)

- CAMH Librarians have always played an active role in supporting research, clinical and policy development work

- In 2012, a reorganization and change in direction resulted in the CAMH Library reporting to the newly restructured Education Department

- Changes also coincided with ongoing changes in the field of librarianship: embedded librarianship, push technologies, interdisciplinary teamwork

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Library Services at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH)

- In addition to our research and reference work in the library proper, we engage in a variety of embedded activities

- This presentation will focus on two initiatives, ECHO and Portico, and our successes and challenges as embedded librarians on these teams

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Embeddedness

"Embeddedness" describes roles that take
librarians out of the library
and have us working alongside clients
(e.g. instructors, researchers, clinicians)
in service of a goal,
be it a product or course or initiative.

Embeddedness

"Clinical Informationist"

– David & Florance (2000)

- has clinical knowledge as well as advanced information retrieval/analysis skills

"Information Specialist In Context"

– Guise, Sathe, and Jerome: MLA (2006)

- similar to above but extended beyond clinical settings (biomedical, public health, health policy, education)

Embeddedness

"Research-Embedded Health Librarian"

- Dennett et al. (2013)

- "participates in a research team(s) rather than focusing on traditional library management and services AND provides tailored, intensive information services to a health research team with which [they] are integrated"

Embeddedness

- We identify most strongly with the definition of research-embedded health librarianship

- Scoping and systematic review projects

- However, our participation extends to education and knowledge mobilization initiatives

Project ECHO

- ECHO = Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes

- "Hub and Spoke" model of knowledge dissemination and capacity building

- Uses tele-education to bridge knowledge gaps between specialists at academic health centers and primary care providers from remote or underserved areas.

- Provides front-line clinicians with the knowledge/support to manage patients with complex conditions such as: hepatitis C, HIV, tuberculosis, chronic pain, endocrinology, behavioral health disorders, and others

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ECHO Ontario Mental Health

Hub includes:

- 3 Psychiatrists, including one specializing in child & adolescent psychiatry

- Community-based family physician

- Addictions physician

- Project ECHO research & project coordinators

- 1 librarian

- Rotating guests, depending on topic being discussed (e.g. social workers from the Gender Identity Clinic)

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ECHO Ontario Mental Health at CAMH and U of T

ECHO Ontario Mental Health

- Curriculum based on analysis of multiple needs assessments conducted with provincial primary care providers.

- Flex sessions included in the curriculum to address additional learning needs identified throughout the year

- 40 sessions per year, breaking for holidays and a few weeks in summer

- In a rotation, one librarian attends each weekly ECHO session

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ECHO Ontario Mental Health at CAMH and U of T

ECHO Ontario Mental Health

- Fully funded by the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care and does not require any payment from primary care provider sites

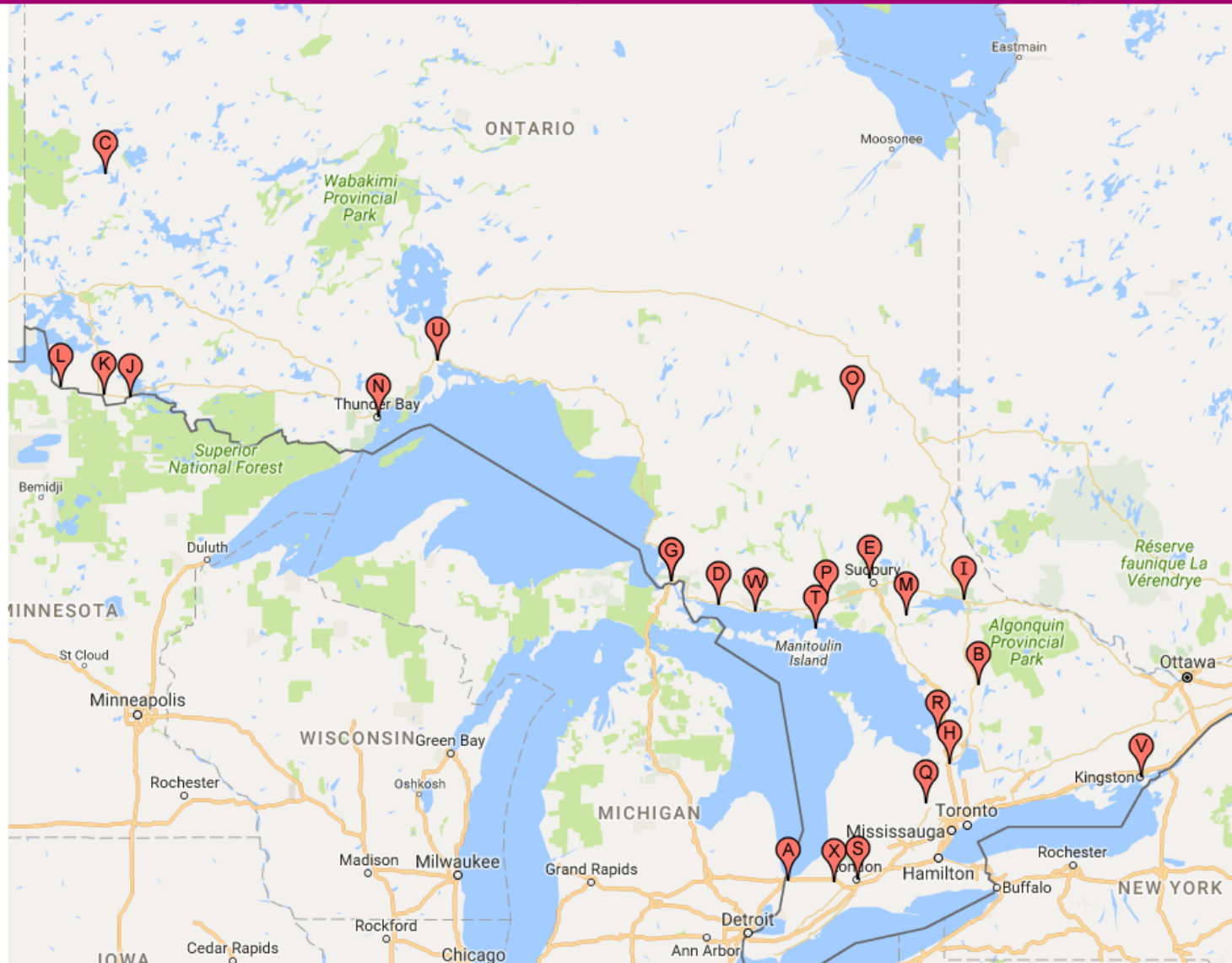- Accredited for Continuing Medical Education (CME)

ECHO Ontario Mental Health at CAMH and U of T

ECHO Ontario Mental Health Spoke Sites

Markers:
- (A) Sarnia, ON, Canada
- (B) Huntsville, ON, Canada
- (C) Red Lake, ON P0V, Canada
- (D) Thessalon, ON, Canada
- (E) Sudbury, ON, Canada
- (F) Sault Ste. Marie, ON, Canada
- (G) Sault Ste. Marie, ON, Canada
- (H) Barrie, ON, Canada
- (I) North Bay, ON, Canada
- (J) Fort Frances, ON, Canada
- (K) Emo, ON, Canada
- (L) Rainy River, ON, Canada
- (M) Noëlville, ON P0M, Canada
- (N) Thunder Bay, ON, Canada
- (O) Timmins, ON, Canada
- (P) Espanola, ON, Canada
- (Q) Orangeville, ON, Canada
- (R) Midland, ON, Canada
- (S) London, ON, Canada
- (T) Little Current, ON P0P, Canada
- (U) Nipigon, ON, Canada
- (V) Kingston, ON, Canada
- (W) Blind River, ON, Canada
- (X) Strathroy, ON, Canada

ECHO Ontario Mental Health

In each session:

- A didactic presentation from CAMH/U of T specialist on a topic such as: Addictions 101, sleep hygiene, clinical care pathways, assessment/diagnosis/management of specific conditions (depression, alcohol use, anxiety disorders, trauma and PTSD, bipolar disorder, dementia, psychosis), attachment, gambling and gaming

- Case presentation by a spoke member

- Questions asked by spokes and hub

- Suggestions by spokes and hub

- Recap of library resources from previous week

- Discussion of potential research question and what evidence/resources would be useful to the spokes

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Librarian Role in ECHO

- Attends weekly sessions

- Provides recap of resources provided for previous week

- Leads discussion of potential research questions for weekly topic

- Librarian gathers resources—ideally publicly available at no cost—which are posted on the ECHO community of practice page

- Might be asked to gather assessment tools mentioned in the session or provide resources to the specialist preparing next session's didactic presentation

Example

Case involved a person who had PTSD and nightmare disorder

- [Best Practice Guide for the Treatment of Nightmare Disorder in Adults](#) – guidelines

- [Treatment of sleep disturbances in posttraumatic stress disorder: a review](#) – review of literature

- [The Scarborough Hospital's Mental Health App Library](#) – apps for self-care

- [US National Center for PTSD's PTSD Coach Online](#) – online module

- [Relaxation Exercises from The Trauma Center, Justice Resource Institute](#) – handout for clients who need/prefer hard copy resources

Benefits of Librarian Involvement

To spoke members:

- Presented with vetted evidence and tools to inform their practice that they might not know how to find, or don't have time to investigate

- Gain knowledge of how much evidence is widely available free of charge

- Access to an information professional

Benefits of Librarian Involvement

To hub:

- Reinforces presentations and recommendations by providing evidence base

- Removes onus from clinicians to gather and evaluate resources, allowing them to focus on participating and teaching (esp. since they may not have expertise in how to find no-cost evidence)

- Adds credibility/respectability to the project, in that we are increasing access to best available evidence

Benefits of Librarian Involvement

To us!

- Breaking down silos within the organization

- Get to hear didactic presentations so learn more about clinical side of patient care

- Learn how health care providers talk about issues and conditions, what language they use, what lens – *very* helpful for future reference and research questions

- Our presence at the table reinforces to all members that evidence, info access, librarianship are valuable parts of this process

Challenges

- ECHO Librarian role is not well-developed

- Rotation schedule results in some detachment from the team, and lack of consistency for spoke members

- Hub members have non-CAMH affiliations so sometimes consult information professionals at other institutions

- Finding best available evidence that is FREE!

- Putting faces to the issues that we research can be emotional

Moving Forward

- Reach out to ECHO community at large to find other hub librarians

- Evaluate whether a rotating schedule is still the best way to proceed, esp. as additional ECHOs are added

- Advocate for us to be the primary info consultants for anything ECHO related

- Instating debrief sessions between us three librarians

- Creating database or repository of resources we gather for ECHO

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Portico

- Fully searchable network of addiction and mental health sites from across Canada

- Officially launched in 2016 (soft launch in 2014)

- Offers clinical tools and evidence-based materials for health care providers, social service workers and others, including people with lived experience and their families

- Hosts editorially independent partner sites built and run by other groups and networks, offering a variety of perspectives

- Includes a discussion platform for registered users (registration is required but free of charge) to share experiences, opinions and knowledge

Portico Connected Sites

- Externally hosted, editorially independent websites focused on addiction and mental health

- Resources are included in the Portico search

- Examples of connected sites:

  - Alberta Family Wellness Initiative
  - Association québécoise de prévention du suicide
  - Canadian Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder Resource Alliance (CADDRA)
  - Drug & Alcohol Treatment Information System (DATIS)
  - Hong Fook Mental Health Association
  - Kids Help Phone
  - Mindyourmind
  - Multicultural Mental Health Resource Centre (MMHRC)
  - Problem Gambling

Portico Partner Sites

- Hosted on the Portico platform but editorially independent

- Resources are indexed in the Portico search

- Examples of partner sites:

  - CAMH Anti-Stigma Initiative for Primary Health Care in Ontario
  - Collaborative Mental Health
  - Drug Promotion, Problems, Policy
  - ECHO Ontario Mental Health at CAMH and U of T (not searchable due to security)
  - Ontario Behaviour Therapy Community of Practice

  - Ontario Working Group on Adults with Autism Spectrum Disorder
  - Le Projet sur la santé mentale des réfugiés
  - Refugee Mental Health (RMH) Project
  - Scarborough Addiction Services Partnership (SASP)

Portico Team

- Content creators, editors, subject matter experts

- Professional content reviewers

- Developers, UX specialists, IT gurus

- National editorial board

- Portico Team and Library Services both report to the Director of Health Information and Knowledge Mobilization

Librarian Role in Portico

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But!

- The Portico team plans to engage a larger group in thinking about how to better structure information and user interface design

- An invitation has been extended to the library

- Will discuss discoverability issues that ultimately connect back to Portico's taxonomy and information structures

- "The more Portico can align with the library the better!"

Benefits of Librarian Involvement

Expertise in…

- Discoverability

- Information architecture

- Controlled vocabulary, particularly in the mental health field

Additional resources…

- Library holdings

- Research and subject guides

- Recommended databases, sites, etc.

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Challenges

- Discoverability

  - Include library content in Portico search
  - Accessing Portico content from the CAMH library

- Collaboration

- Capacity and ongoing involvement

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Moving Forward

(the foot is in the door)

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In Conclusion

- Embeddedness can take many forms

- There are opportunities for embedded librarians beyond research and instruction

- Two different knowledge exchange networks; two *very* different types and degrees of involvement

Thank you!

Works referenced

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