



## **CKHA Innovation Grant Recipients 2019**

### **\$10,000 Grants**

#### **Leveraging OTN at Wallaceburg Site – K. Smith and N. Clark**

Leverage existing and new technology with Ontario Telemedicine Network (OTN) capabilities in Ambulatory Care, Medicine and the Emergency Department at CKHA's Wallaceburg Site. Gaps in OTN capabilities to connect specialty services from the Chatham Site to the Wallaceburg Site include wound and skin, physician consults, consults to other facilities, CCOT, supportive care services, diabetes education, etc. This innovation will improve access to services at the Wallaceburg Site for patients in the rural communities of Wallaceburg, Walpole Island and surrounding areas. The expansion and sustainability of OTN clinics within Ambulatory Care has the potential to reduce costs related to patient transport for consults/services, reduce length of stay for medical inpatients, increase patient satisfaction and reduce admissions to the ED. Patient care, efficiency and effectiveness to connect patients via OTN for specialty services will all be positive results of this innovation.

#### **Enhance Nurse Call Touch Screens – J. Woodall**

Enhance the current nurse call touch screens that are already in place on Medicine, Continuing Care and Women and Children's. By programming the nurse call touch screens with two setup options – one for staff that is password protected and one for patients and family members, the nurse call touch screens can be used to their full potential. This will create many options to improve workflow for staff. An important feature will be the capability to set reminders for rounding on patients that are high risk to prevent falls. The patient's use of the touch screen will provide options for specific requests such as wanting to speak to a nurse, a glass of water, pain medication, etc. This option gives staff a better idea of the patient request and what priority level it is. This innovation will improve patient care and communication, help to reduce falls and improve response time to call bells.

#### **Innovative Technology for Stroke Rehabilitation – J. Prieur**

Invest in a virtual reality device and accompanying software to simulate functional activities for motor retraining in stroke patients. Provided by Saebotronics, a company that specializes in stroke rehabilitation technology, this virtual reality program will enhance stroke rehabilitation and help CKHA become much

more efficient and effective in providing best practice stroke care. Generally, motor recovery after stroke is dependent on repetition of normal movement patterns to regain function. With the SaeboVR, patients would be able to increase the quality of their movement patterns with high repetition while performing meaningful activities through virtual reality. By relating to everyday tasks like grocery shopping, dressing, making meals, etc., patients are more engaged in their therapies. While simulating motor recovery, the program also provides cognitive stimulation that could be utilized therapeutically with any individual with a cognitive impairment.

#### **Therapeutic Environment for Mental Health – D. Bowes, R. Debrander and D. Watterworth**

Provide a physical healthcare environment in CKHA's inpatient Mental Health Program (Level 2, Zone A) that patients will perceive as therapeutic and healing. Growth and recovery are important to promote for our patients, with this funding equipment and renovations will be purchased that foster a positive effect on our patients' mental health and wellbeing. Warm and inviting colours combined with esthetically pleasing furnishings will contribute positively to an environment in which patients feel welcomed, comfortable and at ease. Additionally, integrating equipment to promote creativity, enhance motivation and promote autonomy will facilitate a recovery oriented approach to care. This innovative idea will make CKHA a leader in mental healthcare as other hospitals within our LHIN and across the province still have "institutionalized" mental health facilities. By re-creating an environment that promotes patient safety and recovery, we will set an example that our comparators would want to implement.

### **\$1,000 Grants**

#### **Equipment to support BLS Training – K. Christoff and S. Wiebenga**

Equipment will be purchased to bring Heart and Stroke Foundation (HSF) recommendations regarding Basic Life Support (BLS) training to CKHA. The HSF has recently issued a statement that "Poor Quality CPR is a preventable harm." Quality BLS training is the foundation for providing quality resuscitative care and ensuring the best chance of survival during sudden cardiac arrest. This improved training will not only help our patients while in hospital but will also help prepare staff more fully within the community at large. While Advanced Cardiovascular Life Support (ACLS) is important, it is also dependent on having a core team of responders that are trained in advanced care. Providing quality BLS ensures that the ACLS responders have a greater likelihood of success once at the scene.

#### **Speech and Language Therapy Resources – L. McFadden**

The Speech and Language Therapy Department would greatly benefit from new therapy materials as many are out of date, in poor condition or created by our own therapists. New materials will be a huge benefit to our patients' treatment and recovery, giving our therapists the ability to provide more comprehensive treatment options, a wider range of activities, as well as more modern and functional treatment activities. Updates materials will be a time save for our therapists who are currently spending

time creating their own materials and will also provide the best treatment for our patients.

#### **Health and Wellness Calendar – A. MacPherson**

Maintain a yearly Health & Wellness Calendar for staff, physicians and volunteers. Through monthly initiatives, the overall health and wellness of our staff will be improved and indirectly our patient care will be improved as well. Themes include Mental Health Awareness (January), Random Acts of Kindness (February), Nutrition Month (March), Financial Wellness (April), Creative Minds (June) etc. For example Nutrition Month would be kicked off by the “Great Big Crunch” initiative, include a session on “how to plan your vegetable garden,” healthy potluck lunches and staff entries into a Healthy CKHA Cookbook. Promo items for each month will be purchases to support initiatives, i.e. art supplies for Creative Minds month.

#### **Recruitment Campaign for Nursing Preceptors – K. Sutton**

Create and sustain a recruitment campaign for nursing preceptors in all departments across CKHA. More nursing preceptors will allow CKHA to train more nurses and aids in recruitment. The recruiting of nursing preceptors will add to our roster and put less burden on our current preceptors. This grant will help move the bar forward in our efforts to recruit and retain nursing preceptors and keep them engaged year round.

#### **Music to Prevent Delirium in Critical Care – L. Richie**

Purchase a blue-tooth system for each bedside in the Intensive Care Unit to decrease the risk of delirium in our fragile patients. As healthcare providers we are aware that critically ill patients are at high risk for developing delirium, this prolongs their stay in hospital and distresses the patient and their families. Research has proven that soft background music decreases the risk of delirium and provides comfort to the very ill and their loved ones. By decreasing delirium with the use of music through these blue-tooth systems our hope is to improve the patient’s overall outcome and experience while in the critical care setting.

#### **Calming Cart/Box for inpatient Mental Health – D. Watterworth**

Implement a Calming Cart/Box at CKHA to assist with patients dealing with anxieties associated with a hospital admission, the struggles of staff to manage human behaviour under time constraints, and to respond to patients in a responsible, compassionate way. A Calming Cart/Box provides resources, knowledge and tools for staff to assist patients when they are experiencing emotional distress. Items in the box may include a weighted blanket, mp3 players, sound machine, journals, heated bean bag and fidget/stress toys.

#### **Recognizing Every Death in Hospital – K. Lankhof**

The Social Work department would like to launch an initiative where every death in hospital is recognized in order to foster an environment where life is honoured and space is created for grief and

loss to be recognized by family, friends, and staff. A simple system will be created in which a memorial candle will be placed in a public location, such as nursing station, for 24 hours after a death has occurred. The candle will be battery-operated and small frames will be purchased to go by the candles with an explanation. This small gesture could mark the beginning of grief support for families and bring closure for staff who have invested themselves into patient care.

#### **Attention Processing for Brain Injury – E. MacDonald-Beacock**

A new treatment program called “Attention Processing Training” will be launched in our Speech Language Pathology and Occupational Therapy departments. This program is a direct attention training program for our adult patients with mild to severe brain injury (resulting from stroke, traumatic brain injury and concussion). This program can be used with inpatients and outpatients in providing rehabilitation of attention processing disorders and an adjunct to direct formal therapy sessions. The program is customizable and can be uploaded onto a USB drive which will provide patients the opportunity to work independently between treatment sessions. Increasingly, our stroke patients are younger and wish to return to work. The more complex levels of this program will be very useful in rehabilitating/remediating attention processing.

#### **Radiology Step Platform – Wallaceburg Site – K. Phenix**

The Diagnostic Imaging team would benefit from a Radiology step platform at CKHA’s Wallaceburg Site. The step platform is used for imaging “standing” feet exams. Our team at the Wallaceburg Site cannot currently do these exams because they do not have the proper equipment to do it safely. The purchase of the step platform will increase the number of patients that can be examined in Wallaceburg safely.

#### **Virtual Reality – “Be in the Mind of Someone” – A. MacPherson**

Purchase of a virtual reality headset and associated equipment and software application to support Health and Wellness Calendar initiatives. The VR headset uses various applications and videos to show staff what it’s like to “be in the mind of someone” with schizophrenia, depression, anxiety and other mental health issues. There are features that also showcase the negative effects of texting and driving, and drinking/drugs while driving. The VR headset will promote staff empathy for patients and families and increase awareness. There are also additional features that allow for meditation and mindfulness which will contribute to overall staff wellness.