2018 Annual alPHa Conference June 10-12 – **The Changing Face of Public Health**

Sessions Attended and Key Takeaways

System Sustainability for Local Public Health – panel with 3 presenters

1)Forging a new Path Description of the successful process of the voluntary merging of 2 small health units- Oxford St Thomas and Elgin PH; one was a municipal board requiring divestment of many administrative services, IT etc.

Takeaway A good template for other mergers (should that be required); Best to lead rather than be told

2) LHIN engagement

Described research to identify key factors to enable better collaboration

Takeaways

5 Actions to foster Collaboration

1) PH needs to change the story about what it does using shared goals, indicators and role clarity
2) Data sharing and analysis
3) Leadership relationship development – PH needs to lead the process
4) Using data across boundaries- use specific projects to overcome boundary issues
5) Health impact assessments at the local level

Indigenous Engagement- presenters from Sudbury and Peterborough described their experiences working with Aboriginal leaders and communities

Takeaways

Shift in approaches happening - 'with' not 'to' or 'for' – see National Aboriginal Guidelines *Web of Being*

"Allyship" new buzz word = listen more and speak less

Authentic engagement processes

Cultural sensitivity training for staff e.g. *tobacco wise* not *tobacco free* language

Tie approaches with Truth and Reconciliation – "reconciliation does not only close doors but opens more doors"

You Only Get One Chance - Factoring Values into Government Relations

Dynamic presenter with a basic message of "know your audience"; use all media sources to assess what values drive policy/ platforms of decision makers

Takeaway

Entertaining but not too informative;

June 12 BOH Section Meeting

Up in Smoke - PH Challenges with Tobacco and Cannabis

Tobacco Endgame – Michael Perley (presentation on line)

Excellent review of new goals and strategies Federally and Provincially –

Ontario Goal 5% smoking prevalence by 2035 and how to get there

Takeaway

Only people vaping should be trying to quit smoking cigarettes (evidence to support it helps)

Need transformative and disruptive ideas e.g. huge tax increases, Intensive cessation

Watch 18-30 yr. old cohort for new smokers

Focus on JUUL -reduced risk product with no research on creating new addicts

Cannabis Primer- Dr. David Colby, MOH Chatham Kent. Prof. Pharmacology University of Western Ont.

Excellent and fascinating presentation (must watch) debunking old myths and morality about this ancient drug

Takeaways

Concerns about delivery system i.e. smoking - combustibles

Support for edibles and drinkables as safer delivery systems (2019 legislation)

alPHa Strategic Plan process

Takeaways

Educational for me in understanding roles and value of OPHA, PHO, alPHa

Who is the voice for Public Health in Ontario and how do we educate politicians about the role of PH ?

AMO Update – Monika Turner *"Local Say- Local Share"*

Described Health Discussion paper under development which will help to clarify "health "responsibilities at the municipal level and appropriate resources to support these expectations and mandates from the Provincial and Federal governments

Takeaways

Important work and good timing now

Using a Social Determinants of Health approach i.e. housing, water, transportation

Communication with Municipal leaders very NB for PH

Public Health and Advocacy

(From a Provincial organizations perspective and experiences but basic principles can be applied to local efforts too)

Takeaway

Public Health needs to up their game and skills

Final Plenary Dr. Theresa Tam, Chief MOH for Canada

Presented her plan for 5 years 2017-2022 (available on line)

Pleased to engage with front line Public Health

Focus on Health Equity Theme; priorities fall under this theme

Partnerships are key

Priorities = Indigenous health, Antimicrobial Resistance, Seniors and dementia, Problematic Substance Use, Child and Youth Health and the Built Environment