

## ABOUT EPION

The Early Psychosis Intervention Ontario Network (EPION) is a network of specialized service providers, clients, and their families.

Our goal is to provide early treatment and support to all Ontarians dealing with psychosis.

## NEW EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2014

### CO-CHAIR:

**Dr. Chiachen Cheng**, *Thunder Bay*  
First Place, CMHA Thunder Bay  
ccheng@cmha-tb.on.ca

### CO-CHAIR:

**Terry Bedard**, *North Bay*  
REIP Program, NBRHC  
terry.bedard@nbrhc.on.ca

### MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR:

**Sara McAuley**, *Oakville*  
Schizophrenia Society of Ontario  
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## WORKING GROUPS AND CHAIRS

### METABOLIC MONITORING:

**Dr. Sharman Robertson**, *Ottawa*  
On Track/En Avance  
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### COMMUNITY OF INTEREST:

**Sarah Bromley**, *Toronto*  
First Episode Psychosis Clinic, CAMH  
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### PUBLIC EDUCATION & OUTREACH:

**Karen Hicks**, *Aurora*  
HOPE, CMHA York Region  
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### RESEARCH:

**Dr. Suzanne Archie**, *Hamilton*  
Cleghorn Program  
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### STANDARDS IMPLEMENTATION STEERING COMMITTEE:

**Gordon Langill**, *Peterborough*  
LYNX Program, CMHA-HKPR  
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## Welcome from Co-Chairs

We are very excited to re-launch the EPION quarterly newsletter. The newsletter will be used as another medium to communicate what is happening at EPION to all our members—frontline staff, program managers, and decision-makers.

In essence, this re-launch is a celebration of ten years. In 2004, annualized EPI funding was announced by the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long Term Care (MOHLTC) to support and service individuals experiencing their first episode of psychosis and their families.

In the last decade, EPION has grown and matured as an organization. We have evolved from our early days as grassroots advocates for EPI funding and improvements in access to EPI services across the province. Once we received funding, our focus shifted to the implementation of EPI programs. We grew quickly from the original five sites to over forty

programs across the province, and further evolved to the education and training of our growing workforce. We moved quickly to adapt the EPI values and vision so well established by pioneers in Australia and the UK.

At present we are an organization that sets the bar high in order to meet standards and establish benchmarks to measure our fidelity to the EPI model. Over the next year, we will find ways to celebrate our ten years as an organization that has successfully remained vibrant and relevant to its members.

We are honoured to follow an incredible line of EPION Chairs: Mr. John Trainor, Dr. Gretchen Conrad, Mr. Gord Langill, and Ms. Karen O'Connor. On behalf of all of EPION, thank you for your dedicated years of service with the shared vision of providing better outcomes and service to our clients and families. You are a very difficult act to follow, and we are humbled by the

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## EPION Think Tanks Update

- Three Think Tanks were held November 2013, March 2014, and June 2014.
- The Public Education and Outreach, Metabolic Monitoring, and Psychotherapy Think Tanks were very well received.
- The majority of members who attended the Think Tanks found them as useful as the entire EPION conference.
- A Family Care Think Tank will be held on November 4 – 5, 2014 in Toronto, at the Sheraton hotel.
- We are also hoping to host a Network Think Tank whereby members of Working Groups will have the opportunity to come together for an in-person meeting.

## Welcome from Co- Chairs (continued)

opportunity to try and meet the bar you have set.

We have ambitious goals for the upcoming two years. The first of these goals is a Think Tank for the role of family work within EPI model which will be held at the end of October 2014. A notice to save the date will be sent soon. We also want to continue the momentum that was built over the last couple of years in the work of meeting standards through the EPION Standards Implementation Steering Committee (SISC) and Think Tanks.

Five working groups have been established to ensure EPION continues to effect change and meet standards. As part of our re-launched newsletter, we have included a list of these working groups and the objectives of each (**below right**) as well as contact information for the

working group chairs (**front page**).

We encourage you to support one another in joining one or more of the working groups. This will culminate in an Executive Network meeting, wherein all members of the working groups will come together for a face-to-face Think Tank in January 2015.

A need for a larger conference has been presented and heard. We appreciate how valuable a networking opportunity the EPION conferences have been over the last nine years, and will therefore be planning another large conference for the fall of 2015.

Moving forward, the themes for this year include a focus on celebrating successes, encouraging new membership for our working groups, and continuing to build on ten years' momentum in meeting and exceeding EPI Standards.



From left to right: Gretchen Conrad (former chair), Gordon Langill (former chair) and Lena Arabian (Type A Events, EPION Conference Coordinator) at the 2012 EPION conference.

### General Updates

#### When is our next conference?

Our next EPION network conference will be in the Fall of 2015.

#### Staffing

Last year CAMH provided in-kind administrative and research support to EPION. This year, we have hired two part-time staff through CAMH: Research Analyst (Avra Selick), Administrative Assistant (TBA).

#### Updates to EPION website:

- The information under *Where to Get Help?* (<http://epion.ca/where-to-get-help/>) requires updating. Please have one person from your program review the information listed and forward any changes to: [webmaster@epion.ca](mailto:webmaster@epion.ca).
- Karen Hicks is taking the lead (with Education&Outreach Working Group) to explore options to update our membership website, including collaborating with EENet.

### Working Groups

Below you will find more information on the types and purposes of our EPION working groups. For more information, please contact the group chairs listed in the left column, front page.

#### **METABOLIC MONITORING:**

To develop a province-wide initiative for metabolic monitoring. Collaboration with the Research Working group to develop and evaluate clinical tools.

#### **COMMUNITIES OF INTEREST:**

To expand our ability to support education sector staff who work with youth at risk for psychosis.

#### **PUBLIC EDUCATION & OUTREACH:**

To mobilize and standardize public education materials across EPION, and to enhance EPION public website.

#### **RESEARCH:**

To be the point of contact for all research requests of EPION membership, and to liaise with any EPION related research/evaluation activities.

#### **STANDARDS IMPLEMENTATION STEERING COMMITTEE (SISC):**

To support the implementation and evaluation of EPI Standards, and to provide information to EPION regarding results of SISC surveys and potential projects for EPION conferences, Think Tanks, or collaboration with other Working Groups.

*Are you interested in any of the working groups listed above? If you would like to become a member, please contact the Chair of the respective working group. Meetings will be via*