**Health Services Committee Report**

**ACER-CART**

**March 2022**

**Members:** Bill Berryman, Nova Scotia Peggy Prendergast, Manitoba

Helen Sukovieff and Adeline Wuschenny, Saskatchewan

Albert Legge, Newfoundland and Labrador

Chair: Margaret Urquhart, Regional Representative East, New Brunswick

The committee met by zoom on February25th, courtesy of the NBSRT Online Media Committee.

**Carried forward items**

**Elder Abuse** needs continuing attention. One aspect is that the criminal code provisions are not strong enough in the area of financial abuse. Members need to become familiar with jurisdictional Power of Attorney Legislation.

***Recommendation: That Members familiarize their members with and keep abreast of Power of Attorney Legislation***

**Additional Items for PAC Consideration:**

1. A national Pharmacare program is important in living longer and healthier lives at home and needs to be part of our approach
2. Person centered care/support must be a priority
3. Dedicated budget for in home support/care

**Senior Mental Health** Fountain of Health is now nation wide and consideration will be given to recommending it as a website link. https://fountainofhealth.ca/

**Website Postings** review of the Bilateral Health Accords revealed that some jurisdictions have signed bilateral Long Term Care Fund agreements – British Columbia, Nova Scotia, Newfoundland and Labrador, North West Territories, Prince Edward Island and the Yukon.

**Independent Seniors Advocates** reporting to the legislature do not exist in all jurisdictions. In some the advocate has two roles, in others the position is vacant or legislation pending. BC’s advocate reports the need to look at an Adult Guardianship Act that would require the reporting of suspected elder abuse.

***Recommendation: That Members determine if their jurisdiction has an independent seniors advocate/ombudsperson and if so familiarize members with their role and, if not, promote the naming of one***

**Saskatchewan Project** is a Home Supports program the Saskatchewan Seniors Mechanism has initiated and that the STS is supporting. Note the 2 documents which can be accessed from the home page.<https://skseniorsmechanism.ca/home-supports-initiative>/

Helen Sukovieff recommended the book Happily Ever Older: Revolutionary Approaches to Long Term Care by Moira Welsh. STS provided copies for their executive and they regularly discuss chapters. This may be an item for AC to review and consider recommending to Members

**New Items:**

**Health Coalition** and **Long Term Care Standards Documents:** It was noted that the number of covid deaths was higher in for profit Long Term Care facilities

***Recommendations: That ACER-CART***

1. ***support national Long Term Care Standards that can be enforced through a Safe Long Term Care Act***
2. ***advocate to remove for profit companies from long term care***

**Vaccines** Some jurisdictions still do not provide high dose flu vaccine for those 65 and older as part of medicare.

***Recommendation: That ACER-CART encourage Members who do not have high dose flu vaccine covered by medicare to advocate for it.***

The **National Seniors Council** advises the federal government on “issues related to the health, well-being and quality of life of seniors”: In doing so they consider the views of stakeholders. Views, comments and questions can be submitted. It has also delivered reports to ministers on a range of issues – low income among seniors, social isolation, elder abuse. (Some of these are dated!!!) Linking with this Council could be advantageous

***Recommendation: That ACER-CART explore opportunities to work/connect with the National Seniors Council.***

The **next meeting** will be **April 11th**.

Respectfully Submitted

Margaret Urquhart, East Coast Representative