

ODAP/Focus Symposium a Success

Four CODA representatives attended this year's ODAP/Focus Symposium; Don Buckley, Asma Fakhri, Roger Gawne and Heather Hodgson-Schleich. "This year's symposium not only provided us with great opportunities to network with ODAP partners, but also foster new contacts in organizations and communities." Said Fakhri. "Our participation in the symposium provided the opportunity to introduce strategic community representatives to our current and new programs. We were able to initiate preliminary dialogue on potential collaborations and partnerships." She continued.

The following is a brief synopsis of the highlights and achievements of the symposium:

Brenda Stankiewicz – Sudbury FOCUS: Presented a project her organization has been working on annually since 2005 called FOCUS on FILM. Basically, it's a movie night for youth in Sudbury County that promotes health promotion principles. We were able to discuss potential areas for growth of the movie night and possibility of CODA showcasing its **Crossroads** video series.

Sam Bezaire (Youth Roots Co-Chair – Huron County) & Kristi Waram (Grey Bruce Public Health): Presented a workshop about mobilizing the unique assets of rural youth and engaged us in a very informative session. We were able to discuss lessons learned and tips to engaging youth for the CODA Youth Advisory Council (YAC). Sam and his team are also highly interested in involving the Huron County Youth Council in our YAC.

Poverty and Health: Primer to Action Workshop by Suzanne Schwenger (OPC): This workshop facilitated a dynamic discussion on poverty and health promotion, particular sensitivities & social determinants of health, encouraging health promoters to address/discuss issues of poverty in their individual work and outreach.

Introduction to the LHINs Workshop: by Brad Quinn (TNG Consultant) & John Magill (Mississauga LHIN Chair): A very informative workshop on the recent and forthcoming changes in the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care and Ontario Public Health departments' funding structure. The Local Health Integrated Network (LHIN) was presented, describing its impact and implications for funded organizations. Ministry of Health Promotion (MHP) funded organizations (CODA and others) do not fall under this new structure.

The symposium was well attended and each one of us came away with a lot of worthwhile information.

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