

Community Wisdom

CREATING A MORE PRODUCTIVE WORKPLACE THROUGH IMPROVED COMMUNICATION, COLLABORATION AND COLLECTIVE LEARNING.

We have a name!

After almost a year, we have by general consensus settled on a name for our CoP of CoPs:

COFFEE (Community of Facilitators for Education and Exchange)

23 members voted in a doodle poll; at 17 votes COFFEE was the clear winner. Congratulations to Christine Thompson for coming up with this name!



We've Been Busy!

Our name might be COFFEE, but that doesn't mean we've been taking a break. Our charter, which was developed in collaboration with the 50 plus COFFEE members from all over Alberta, included three key areas of focus: Measuring progress, Virtual resource centre, and Mentorship. Accordingly, three sub committees were formed to address these areas.

Mentorship Group Report

This Spring COFFEE's Advisory Group members, Roberta Dubois, John Parboosingh and Stacey Babcock volunteered to start work on a Mentorship Program that would put newcomers and members seeking help with facilitation and other CoP activities in touch with more experienced COFFEE members. Work has started on the development of Program essentials. The essentials include: a mentees needs questionnaire; the process for identifying and communicating





Mentorship Group Report, continued

with mentors; and a worksheet to record recommendations and outcomes. It is hoped that select mentoring stories will be shared with COFFEE members through our Online Resource Centre. News of the Mentorship Program travels fast - even though the program is still in development, several requests to assist groups start CoPs have already been received. These requests have proven somewhat challenging since it is so early in our development. We would like to thank the entire CoP working group for providing support and assistance.

-John and Roberta

Measuring Progress Working Group

The measuring progress working group has been collecting papers and grey literature on CoP evaluation for the resource kit. At the same time we are very interested in developmental evaluation and would like to stress its effectiveness. Scott Oddie and Johana Stark attended a two day developmental evaluation retreat and are applying those principles in evaluating our own health research collaborative at Red Deer College to thoroughly understand the process. We are also writing a SSHRC grant proposal that will align COFFEE with another research project at Red Deer College where a CoP is centered around prevention strategies for HIV/AIDS in aboriginal populations. The proposal states that the toolkit be piloted on the HIV/AIDS prevention group with a developmental evaluation providing feedback throughout the entire evaluative process.

-Johana Stark

Research Assistant | Applied Research and Innovation

Our group supports those who are facilitating CoPs. For more information or to become a member of the community please contact us at:

Zahra Nurani

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Virtual Resource Centre Report

The Virtual Resource Centre was a need expressed by our community. They wanted timely access to categorized tools and resources for CoP building and maintenance. Having a web library that is well maintained and up to date is no small task, and will likely require some monetary resources. The group is looking into options, as well as funding options for this area of the COFFEE endeavor.

SEARCH Canada Closing Doors

The SEARCH Canada organization is formally ending on September 30, 2009. SEARCH began collaborating with the Health Workforce Research Network of Alberta (HWRNA) a year ago which led to the development of COFFEE. SEARCH Canada staff, Christine Thompson and Barb Colvin, filled a project management role for this initiative (meeting support, budget management, strategic planning, newsletter editing, contact list management). Zahra Nurani from HWRNA has kindly offered to fully take on this role in August to ensure the ongoing momentum of COFFEE. Zahra will be supported by the COFFEE Advisory Group (John Parboosingh, Scott Oddie, Johana Stark, Trish Paton, Roberta Dubois).

Christine is moving to Saskatchewan (taking on a new role with United Way Saskatoon) in mid-August. Barb will continue to provide support from SEARCH Canada until the end of September. SEARCH Canada is privileged to have played a role in the development of COFFEE and wishes all the best to ongoing community collaboration and building facilitation community.

-Christine Thompson, former Project Manager, SEARCH Canada

COFFEE would like to extend a big Thank You to SEARCH for all they have done to help make COFFEE a reality.



COFFEE Goes to RTNA

Zahra Nurani and Johana Stark will be presenting the story of our COFFEE group, along with our accumulated knowledge on CoPs, at RTNA's Knowledge Translation conference in Banff, September 30-Oct 2. Break a leg Zahra and Johana!