

Promoting evidence-informed decision making at the local level: The case of a knowledge broker mentorship project in an Ontario health unit

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Public Health

Who we are – Peel Public Health



- Located in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA) west of Toronto, ON
- Governed by regional council that acts as board of health
- Total population: 1,159,405 over 1254 square km of urban and rural communities
- Diverse population: Total immigrant population of 561,240 (48%)

Source: Region of Peel Planning

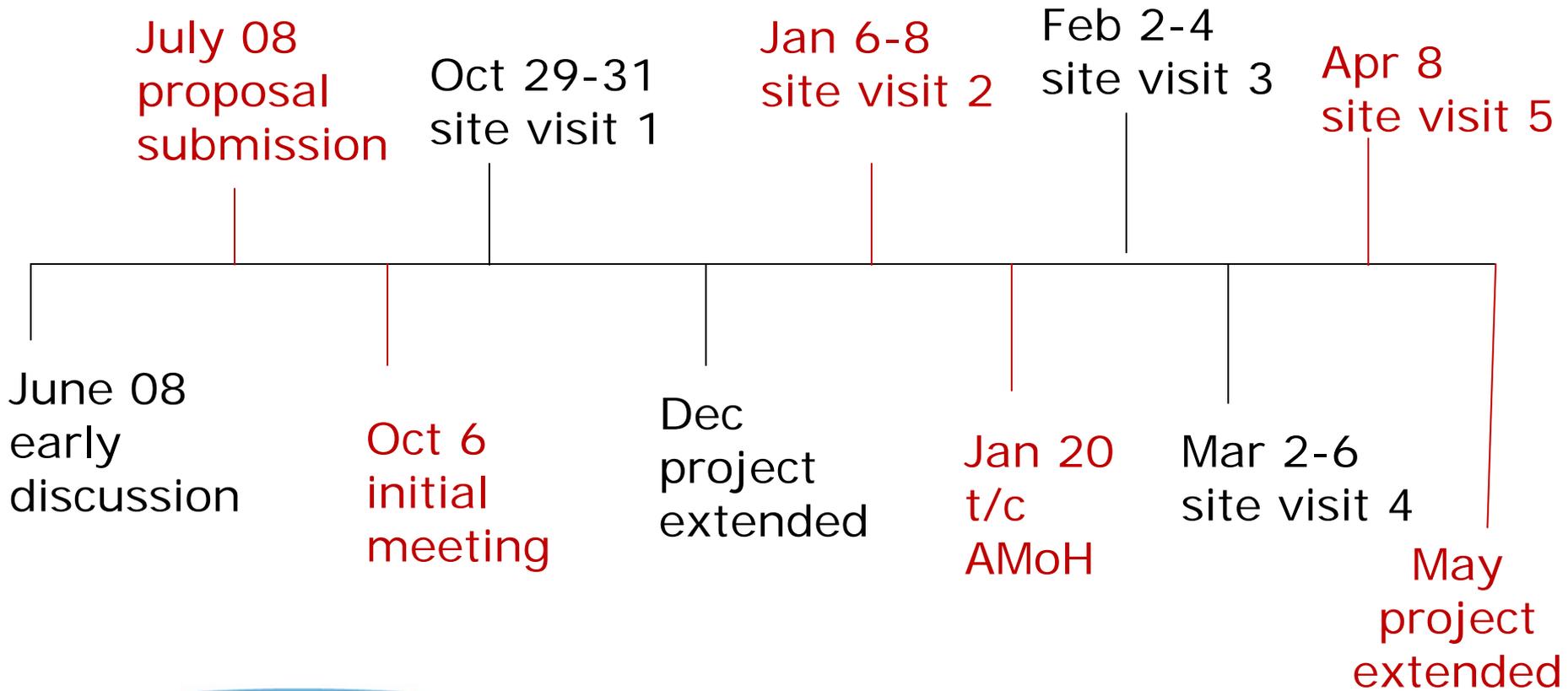
Who we are – Health Evidence

- Launched 2005
- @ McMaster University
- Access to evidence & capacity dev. for EIDM
- Serves 3,800+ registered users
- Jan-April 2009
 - 12,051 total visits
 - 7,765 visitors
 - 4,286 return visitors
 - 87,383 page views
 - 7.25 page views/visitor
 - 6 minutes/visitor on the site

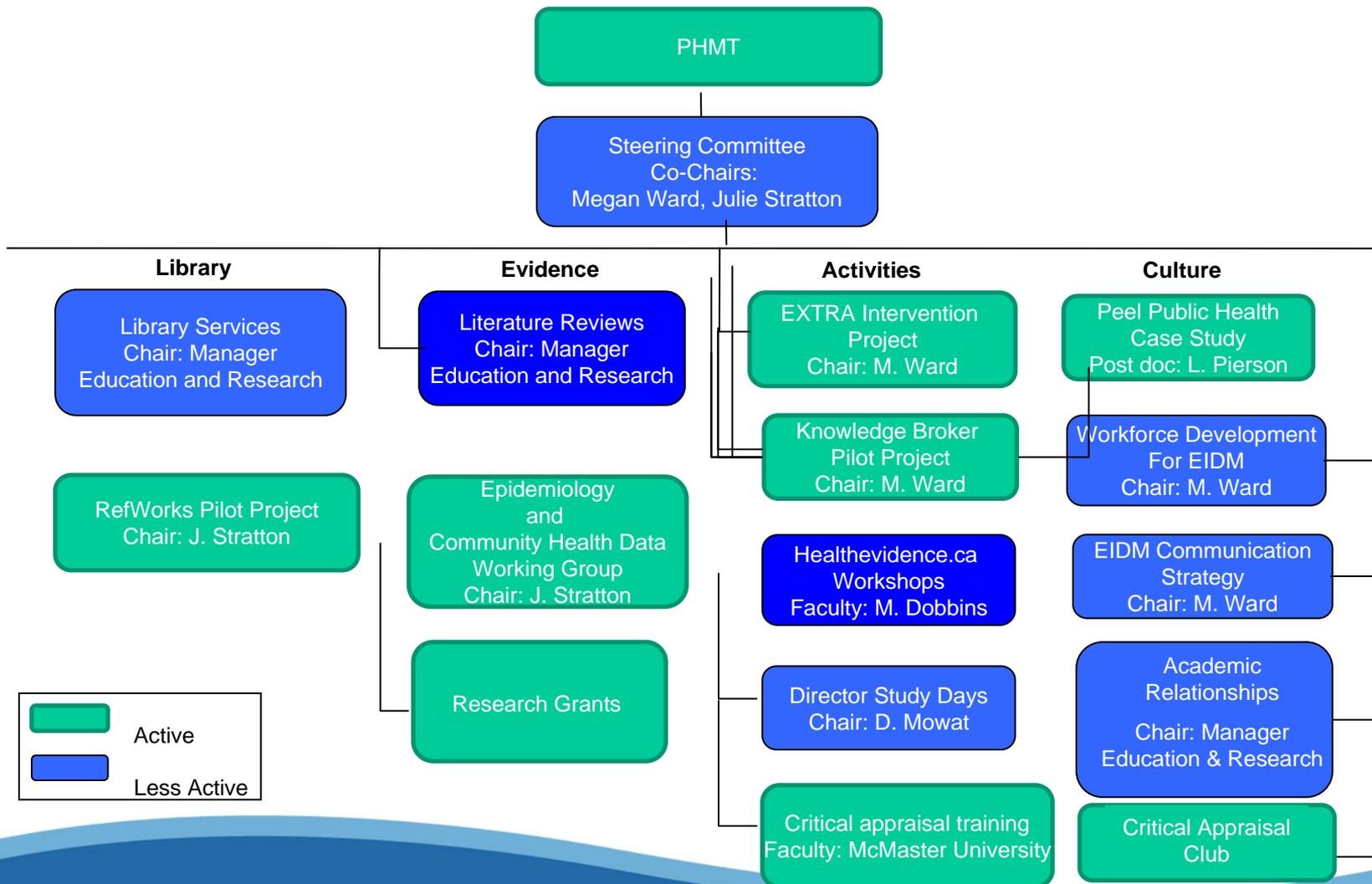
Project goals

- To facilitate the development of individual and team capacity for evidence-informed public health decision making (EIDM) at Peel Public Health, Communicable Disease Division
- To contribute to Peel Public Health's strategic initiative that fosters EIDM throughout the organization

Mentorship Project Timeline



Peel Public Health Governance Model: Evidence-Informed Decision Making



Initial teleconference meeting

- Introductions
- Goals
 - Peel
 - HE
- Expectations
- Early assessment of knowledge and skills
- Discussion re clinical questions

Practice-based questions

Team 1

Which interventions are effective in contact and partner notification for reportable sexually transmitted infections?

Team 2

Is the exclusion of pertussis cases from work or school effective in reducing pertussis transmission?

Site visits

- Assessment
 - Initial & ongoing
 - Individual
 - Organizational
- Mentoring of project specialists
 - Side-by-side
 - Practice-based
- Homework issues
- Other issues
 - Barriers
 - Facilitators
- Resource development
- Reflection

Between visits

Peel

- Conduct searches
- Critical appraisal
- Resource development
- Reflection
- Discussion with colleagues

Health Evidence

- Reflection
- Available for virtual support
- Conduct additional searches
- Scanning the horizon

Outcomes

- Increase in
 - awareness & value of EIDM
 - knowledge of EIDM process
 - confidence & comfort re EIDM
 - skills across EIDM steps
 - knowledge & use of relevant resources
 - Peel-specific resources developed

Outcomes

- Mentorship & peer support re EIDM by project specialists
- Conference abstracts & presentations
- Attendance at EIHCP workshop

Resources developed

- Hierarchy-based search tool
- EIDM 'thought of the month'
- Briefing note
- 'Setting the stage' presentation

Other resources used

- Health-evidence.ca
- RefWorks
- Peel CA Club
- Cochrane (free access)
- PublicHealthOntario.ca
- Peel Library technician
- NurseOne
- NCCMT
 - EIPH wheel
 - Dialogue PH
 - Adaptability & transferability tool
 - Compendium of CA tools
- McMaster EIHCP w/s
- CIHR modules

Challenges

- Contract
 - series of short term contracts
 - novel process
- Strategic direction
 - shared vision, variety of interpretations
 - undeveloped role guidelines
 - multiple projects; limited coordination
- Intra-organizational communication
 - duplication of effort among project specialists
 - missed opportunities to share knowledge across divisions

Challenges cont'd

- Resource availability
 - lack of full text access
- Time & workload
 - project added to responsibilities
 - competing priorities
 - time
 - for project activities
 - for learning & practice
- H1N1

Keys to success

- Leadership & strategic direction
- Combination of f2f and virtual contact
- Individual & organizational assessment
- Tailored interventions
- Practice-based & -relevant

Keys to success cont'd

- Multiple levels of involvement
- Starting “where folks are at”
- Skills practice opportunities
- Collaborative goal setting
- Flexibility

Additional learnings

- Individual & organizational interventions
 - individuals & teams provide opportunity for organizational assessment & development
 - multiple levels concurrently
- Potential of the following to promote EIDM
 - reflective practice
 - communities of practice
 - knowledge management
 - improved internal communications strategy

Next Steps

KB Project:

- Focus on all stages of EIDM process
- Clarity on long term vision for this project
- Development of summary statements

Peel Public Health:

- Foster EIDM within organizational change
 - linking projects within strategic EIDM plan
 - reflective practice
 - community of practice
 - resource availability

Thank you!

For more information, contact

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