



# Timmins Health Link: Practical Applications of Patient Engagement

AFHTO Conference

October 15, 2014

# Presenter Disclosure

## Presenters:

**Jennifer McLeod**, Executive Director, Timmins FHT

**Andrea Griener**, Project Manager, Timmins Health Link

**Julia Peart**, Care Coordinator, Timmins Health Link

# Presenter Disclosure

## **Relationship with Commercial Interests, commercial support and potential for Conflict of Interest:**

We do not have any relationship with any commercial entity, such as pharmaceutical or medical device companies. We do not have an affiliation and are not receiving any commercial (financial or otherwise) support for this presentation. Therefore, there is no potential for conflict of interest in our presentation or in our interaction with conference participants.



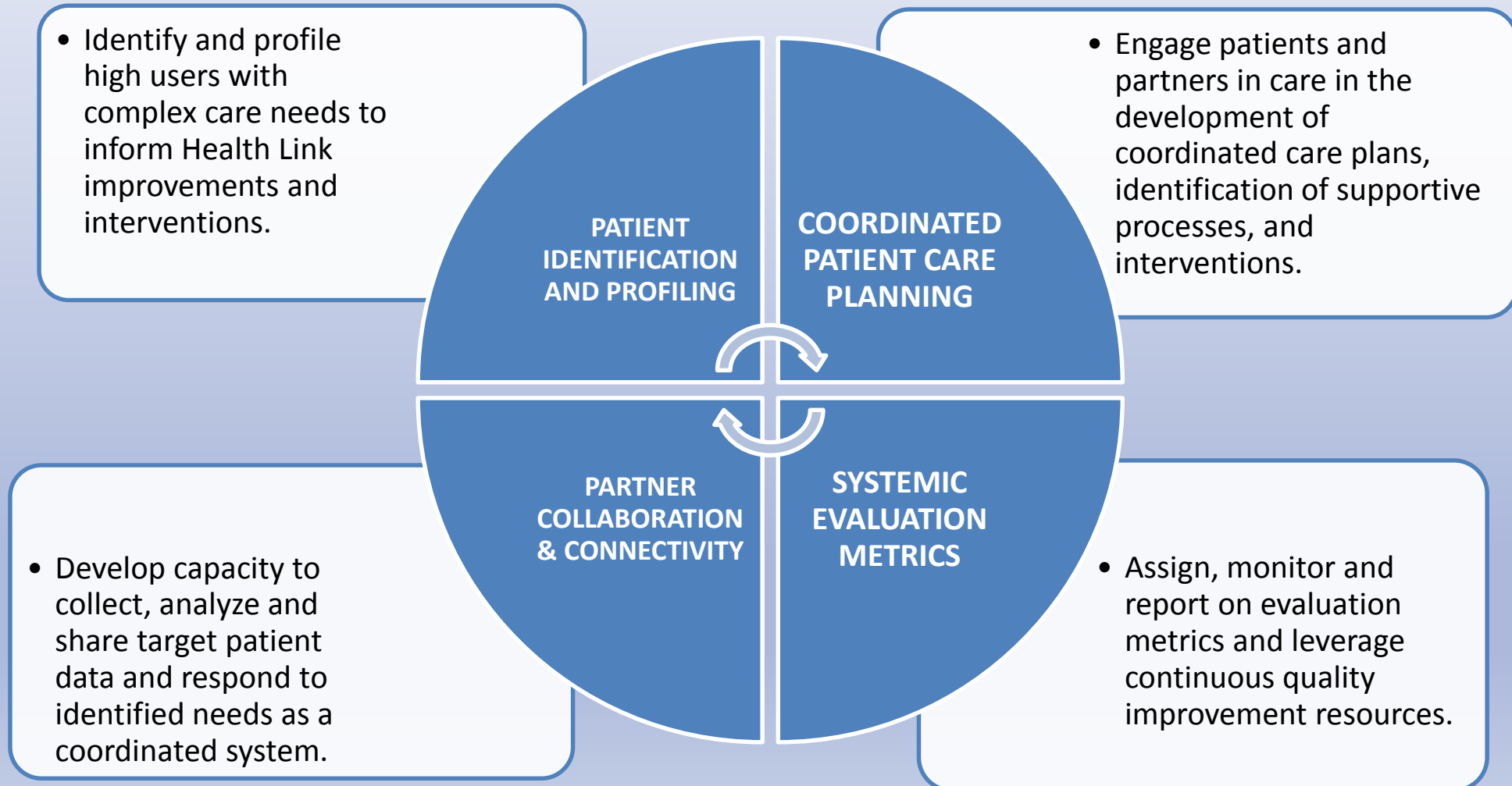
# Timmins Health Link Partners

## **Timmins Family Health Team (Lead Organization)**

- Timmins & District Hospital
- East End Family Health Team
- Canadian Red Cross
- Porcupine Health Unit
- Community Care Access Centre
- VON
- Misiway Community Health Centre
- Timmins Native Friendship Centre

- Canadian Mental Health Association
- Alzheimer Society
- Community Facilitator – Leclair Consulting
- South Cochrane Addiction Services
- Jubilee Substance Abuse Centre
- Access Better Living
- DSSAB – Housing
- Work of partnership supported by the NE LHIN

# Implementing Timmins Health Link Framework



# Health System Transformation



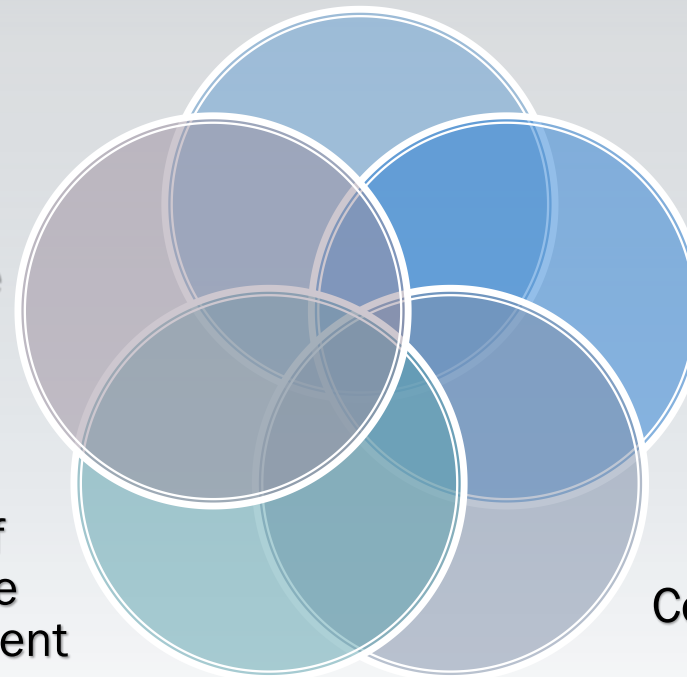
Taking a 'Leap of Faith'!

Sustainability of Health Link gains and learnings requires a change in care delivery

Wealth of knowledge through Patient Discovery Interviews

Engaged health partners

Confidence that patients will inform the process





# Health System Transformation

## ➤ Development of Primary Care Model for Care Coordination

- PCPs asked to coordinate care for their own patients
- These are patients we know!
- Linking patients without PCP to provider

## ➤ Implementing a HL Approach in Primary Care Environment

- Early Identification of high users through hospital data or EMR data
- Engagement of PC team to assist
- Training of nursing staff to complete patient discovery interviews on home visits & in effective patient centred care coordination techniques

# HL Process for Primary Care Office



## Hospital

- Identified as high user from hospital data
- Hospital sends notification of increased frequency to FHT HL trained office nurse



## FHT Office

- Nurse contacts patient to set up home visit
- Nurse conducts chart review and prepares for HL assessment
- Nurse meets with PCP before home visit



## In Home

- Nurse conducts HL assessment and fills in documentation using a laptop computer



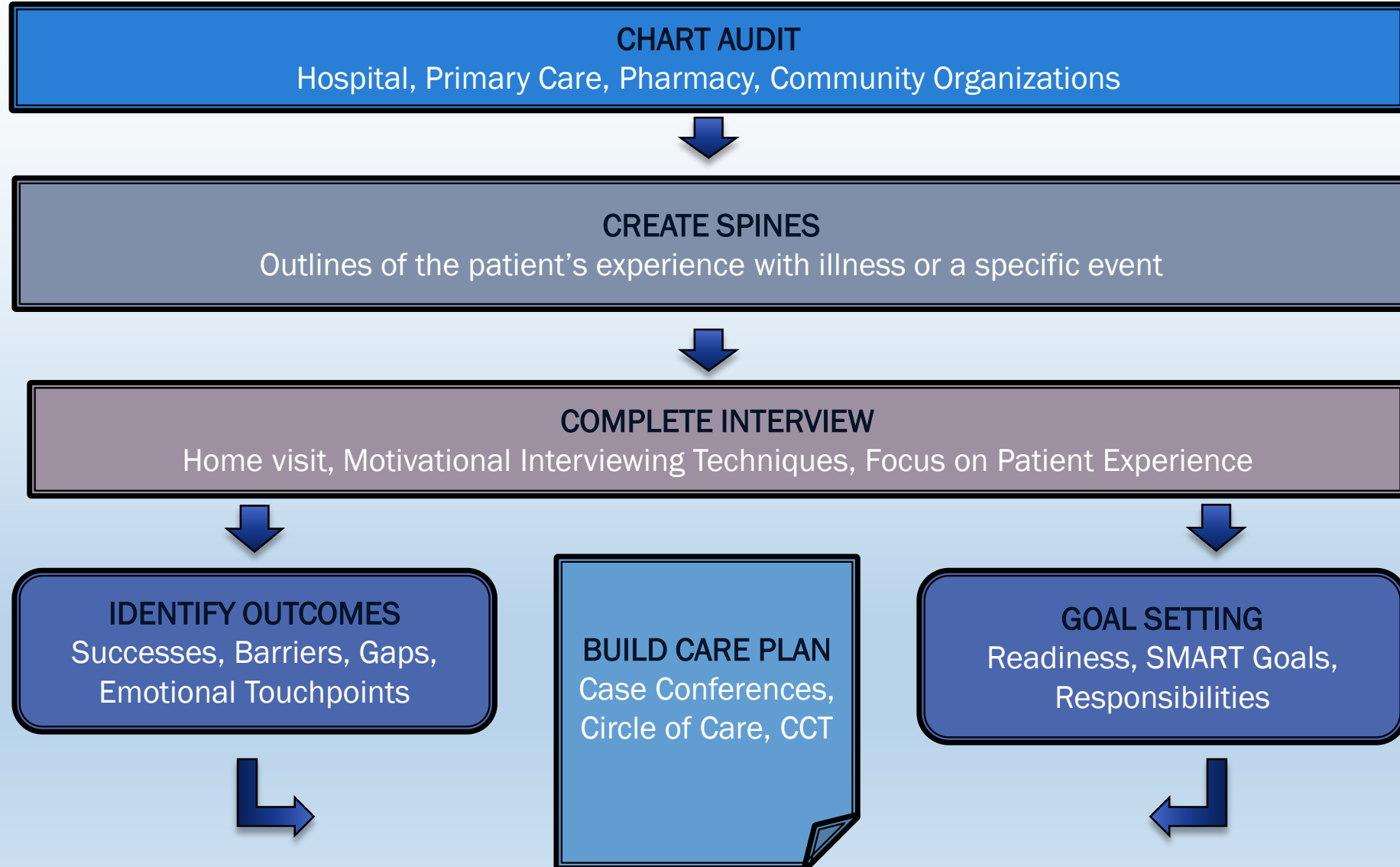
## FHT Office

- Nurse plans and leads case conference if required
- Nurse updates and maintains care plan
- Nurse maintains communication with circle of care
- Nurse provides follow up as needed for client needs





# TIMMINS HEALTH LINK: THE PATIENT DISCOVERY INTERVIEW



# TIMMINS HEALTH LINK: THE PATIENT DISCOVERY INTERVIEW

## CHART AUDIT

- Hospital
- Primary Care
- Pharmacy
- Community Organizations

# TIMMINS HEALTH LINK: THE PATIENT DISCOVERY INTERVIEW

## CREATE SPINES

- Outlines of the patient's experience with illness or a specific event

# Example of the PDI Spine

(Name of Disease Process/Event lived) "COPD"	
Outline of experience	Patient's Perspective
<i>Thinking something was wrong</i>	"I started to have trouble breathing at night"
<i>Seeing the Primary Care Provider</i>	
<i>Having test to figure out what was wrong</i>	
<i>Being told what was wrong</i>	
<i>Receiving treatment</i>	
<i>Living with your condition</i>	
<i>Getting follow up</i>	
<b>Successes:</b> Supportive family	
<b>Challenges/Barriers:</b> Difficulty affording medications on a consistent basis	
<b>Gaps:</b> No primary care provider	
<b>Emotional Touchpoints:</b> (Emotions experienced with associated triggers) Emotion: Confused Trigger: When being discharged home, no one explained my list of medications	

# TIMMINS HEALTH LINK: THE PATIENT DISCOVERY INTERVIEW

## COMPLETE INTERVIEW

- Home visit
- Motivational Interviewing Techniques
  - Focus on Patient Experience

# TIMMINS HEALTH LINK: THE PATIENT DISCOVERY INTERVIEW

## IDENTIFY OUTCOMES

- Successes
- Barriers
- Gaps
- Emotional Touchpoints

# TIMMINS HEALTH LINK: THE PATIENT DISCOVERY INTERVIEW

## GOAL SETTING

- Readiness Assessment
  - SMART Goals
  - Responsibilities

# TIMMINS HEALTH LINK: THE PATIENT DISCOVERY INTERVIEW

## BUILD CARE PLAN

- Case Conferences
- Circle of Care
  - CCT



# Using the Interview: Patient Benefits



Customized care plans co-designed with patient and are lead by patient directed needs



Patient feels heard and experience is improved



Outcomes are improved and gains are measurable

# Using the Interview: Institutional and Systemic Benefits



# John's Story

- Epilepsy
- No family doctor
- 90 ER visits in last year

“No one listens, or cares”

## Clinical Assessment Tool (CCT)

**Dx:** Frequent reoccurring seizures

**Actions:** TC to Neurologist for reassessment

**Outcome:** Continued ER visits and epileptic episodes

## Patient Discovery Interview

**Dx:** Severe anxiety related to isolation

**Actions:** Referral to CMHA and planned support with family

**Outcome:** Reduced anxiety, ER visits, epileptic episodes

# Experiential Findings from PDI...

## 1. Poor mobility or function limits ability to leave the home

Resulting in inability to access services or PCP

## 2. Limited Access to PCP

No PCP, No home visits, related to hours of operation

## 3. Limited Finances

Can't afford medications, equipment, treatment or assistance needed

## 4. Poor service from hospital or community program staff

Needed equipment not available, no support from staff, judgement from care providers

## 5. Lack of access to information about available community health/social resources

**Timmins Top 5**

14 primary themes identified as reasons for high usage (tagged in the interview script as barriers, challenges or gaps in care)



# Timmins HL Statistics

## Criteria for HL assessment:

- 15+ Emergency Dept. visits or
- 4+ Admissions

**Start date for HL assessments:**

Dec 2013

**Number of Patients assessed by Sept  
2014:**

45



# Timmins HL Statistics

Age range of HL Clients:

1-100

Average age:

52

Primary diagnoses:

40% Mental health (incl. dementia)

Diabetes, COPD, addictions,  
heart & kidney issues

Secondary diagnoses:

Mental health- anxiety, depression



# Referred but not assessed

14 of the 62 referrals (22.5%)  
did not proceed with HL

## Reasons

- Refusal to participate (7)
- No response (4)
- Death (2)
- Moved (1)
- ALC (1)



# Timmins HL Statistics

## Connection to PCP

- Solo practitioners: 33%
- Timmins FHT: 42%
- East End FHT: 2%
- VON: 2%
- Health Unit: 2%
- CMHA: 2%
- No PCP: 15%



# Patients' Reported Experiences

## What helps people meet their needs

- Supportive & accessible primary care providers
- Informal & formal community supports
- Pleasant staff
- Access to treatment for ailment
- Supportive pharmacy



# HL observations of HL Clients

Perceived Challenges/Barriers/Gaps to meet needs:

- 50% have housing that is unsafe; not affordable; not accessible
- 50% have low income: can't afford medication, equipment
- 70% lack of information about community resources
- 37 % have poor informal supports

# Patient's Reported Experiences

## Perceived Challenges/Barriers/Gaps to meet needs:

Housing  
Issues

I can't go see  
my PCP

70% lack of  
information

50% low  
income

- 25 % cannot get timely access to PCP
- Have limited personal mobility
- No PCP home visits conducted
- Limited access to transportation

37 % poor  
informal  
supports



# Tracking HL Clients

## Measuring Success:

- Reduce use of Hospital ED & Admissions
- Reduce HL clients without a PCP
- Help clients meet their goals



# Tracking HL Clients

For clients assessed from Dec 2013 to May 2014

**Of 37** clients assessed by HL, **4** are still high users:

- 2 frail elderly
- 1 significant mental health challenges
- 1 no PCP (visits stopped in July when acquired PCP)

**Of the 4** who refused Health Link assessment, **3** are still high users of TADH.



# Sustainability

HL trained **25** staff at **9** agencies in the HL approach

**13** nurses were trained to conduct HL assessment as part of their ongoing duties at:

- 2 FHTs
- 1 CHC
- 1 CMHA



# Sustainability

## Supports:

- training manual
- filmed training session
- one-on-one support
- trained peers in community
- specialized training for MH, addictions & frail elderly
- community resources



# Sustainability

## Next steps for Timmins HL

- Working Committee will be set up to identify solutions to support patients of Solo docs and those with no PCP





**Questions?**