What’s been happening?

The KT strategic planning update was presented at the June 20, 2013 CanChild Team Meeting highlighting accomplishments to date and challenges and priorities for moving forward with our plans. A brief summary of the activities is summarized here.

1. Dianne Russell briefly summarized the KT strategic planning process from July 2012- March 2013 and updated on some general activities for the 3 months March 2013 to June 20, 2013.
   i) As a follow-up to our full KT strat plan document which was circulated in March 2013- A 2 page summary of the KT strategic directions was posted on the CanChild website (http://www.canchild.ca/en/ourresearch/resources/kt_strat_plan_summary.pdf)
   ii) We submitted an abstract on the KT strategic planning process to Journal of Physical Therapy call for Special Issue on KT. (Russell, Gorter, Novak, McCauley, Kolehmainen, Shikako-Thomas) Update: we have been invited to submit a paper for Oct 2013.
   iii) Working with the 3 sub-group leads all interested in Engaging with Families on a survey to post on CanChild website (Rosenbaum, Camden & Shikako-Thomas).
   iv) Hired a work term student for summer help with KT. AbdulRhaman Khodr is in Multi-media studies at McMaster and has good experience with videos which we hope to capitalize on over the summer.

2. Jan Willem Gorter shared with the group that due to limited funds, cuts had to be made to KT staff. This will significantly impact how fast we can move forward with our KT strategic planning and will force us to prioritize activities even further. Several funding opportunities are being pursued and if/when these come through we can ramp up activities again. The need for research grants to contribute to KT activities was emphasized. Despite this disappointing news, there has been a lot of exciting work done over the past 5 months.

3. Subgroup Updates:
   “Building KT Capacity” Cheryl Missiuna updated for the team (Brian Timmons, Wenonah Campbell, Oksana Hlyva, Mary Law)
   - Priority activity has been to work with Bloorview Research Institute (BRI) to develop a joint position (BRI and CanChild) to recruit post doctoral fellows. Posted on the CanChild and BRI websites and advertised through social media (http://www.canchild.ca/en/NewsModule/index.aspx?newsId=cYCNbyjNoCsM7iWrJLePlUs5lA5HweQuAl)
   “Funding” Mary Law updated for the team (Mary Beaudoin, Jan Willem Gorter, Dayle McCauley, Peter Rosenbaum)
   - Ongoing work towards a revenue generation plan for CanChild.
“KT Science” Jan Willem Gorter updated for the team (Bob Palisano, Uzma Williams, Niina Kolehmainen, Marjolijn Ketelaar, Dana Anaby, Tram Nguyen, Dianne Russell)

- Raise the profile of KT on the CanChild website by developing a microsite and collating relevant KT expertise and resources.
- Track KT Science (grants & publications, methodology products, high impact journals)
- Arranging a discussion group at EACD and AACPDM meetings in October with those interested in KT Science


- Recruited 2 parent members. Jenn Sprung went through our website to provide feedback from her parent perspective providing interesting feedback by way of a video presentation. Affaf shared part of the video she made showing how she thinks about approaching and navigating our website.
- Developed preliminary guidelines for social media and a disclaimer notice to post on the website. We are still using a “push” strategy but are being encouraged by our parent members to become more active in providing opportunities for exchange. Currently we have limited resources to become more active but will revisit.
- Have made all documents on website more searchable
- Recognized our partner organizations on our website and highlighted some of their activities through our newsletter, Facebook and Twitter.

“Engaging with Families and Youth” (lead Peter Rosenbaum) for team (Keiko Shikako-Thomas, Oksana Hlyva, Olaf Kraus de Camargo, Deb Stewart, Rachel Teplicky, Dayle McCauley, Betty Yundt, Chun Yi, Yun Jeong and “Strengthening Partnerships” (Keiko Shikako-Thomas) for Chantal Camden, Kathy Wlodarczyk, Oksana Hlyva, Martha Cousins, Olaf Kraus De Camargo, Nancy Pollock, Doreen Bartlett).

If you are listed in one of these two groups you may not have had a meeting yet. This is because the leads of these 2 groups have been meeting with the Dissemination/Increasing Access to Information lead (Affaf), Dianne and Jan Willem to ensure we were moving forward with engaging with families and youth in a coordinated way. Some decisions/actions arising from this group include:

1. We will prioritize working with youth/families and continue strengthening other partnerships through ongoing research and KTE activities until further resources are available.
2. We will form a Family/Youth Advisory Board for guidance in KT activities. A preliminary face to face meeting has been set October 2, 2013 to meet with some parent/youth representatives and discuss how this partnership could move forward. It will be important to discuss expectations and set up clear guidelines about roles, activities and processes.

On behalf of the KT strategic planning team, thank you for your continued support!

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions, concerns, or ideas for project funding. 😊

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