

**Research & Ethics Committee
In-person – YCC Board Room**

AGENDA

Tuesday, January 17, 2023 @ 4:00 pm

Item	Description	
1.	Call to Order & Introductions	Keith McAlpine
2.	Declarations of Conflict of Interest	Keith McAlpine
3.	Approval of Previous Minutes – November 8, 2022	Keith McAlpine
4.	Business Arising:	
4.1	Terms of Reference Update*	Keith McAlpine
4.2	Code of Ethics & Professional Conduct*	Keith McAlpine
4.3	CANHealth Network – update	Geri Geldart
5.	Research & Ethics Report for Q2 – July 1, 2022 – September 30, 2022*	Justine Henry
5.1	General Q2 Commentary	
5.2	Progress on Operational Goals	
5.3	Project Overview – Public Health Agency of Canada Using behavioral science to improve antibiotic stewardship in Canadian long-term care facilities	Justine Henry
	New Business	Keith McAlpine
7.	Date of Next Meeting: April 18, 2023 @ 4PM	

*denotes attachment



**Minutes of Meeting
Research and Ethics Committee
On November 8, 2022 at 4:00pm**

Present: Keith McAlpine (Chair), Gary Beattie, Marjorie Belzile, Tracey Burkhardt, Donna Curtis Maillet, Geri Geldart (ex-officio)

Regrets: Brenda Bossé

Staff: Justine Henry, Jamie Roy

1. Call to order

Keith McAlpine, Chair called the meeting to order at approximately 4:00 pm.

2. Declarations of Conflict of Interest

Mr. McAlpine asked the members present if there was a need to register a conflict of interest. None expressed.

3. Approval of previous minutes – September 13, 2022

Motion:

It was moved by G. Beattie, seconded by M. Belzile that the minutes of September 13, 2022 be approved as presented.

Motion carried.

4. Business arising

4.1 Research and Ethics – Terms of Reference Update

The committee's terms of reference were updated and presented to the committee. The structure of the committee was discussed, and further edits were suggested to include how many board members should be appointed to the committee taking into consideration that there is a requirement of a quorum of 50%. The following paragraph will be added to the terms of reference, "*There will be a minimum of two board members appointed by the board from within its membership and the President and CEO as well as other appropriate members of senior leadership team as non-voting members*". It was clarified that the community member is a voting member of the committee. The President & CEO and Board Chair are ex-officio members of the committee.

A discussion was held on the reporting structure in relation to research that takes place within

YCC and with its residents and research activities that take place within the community with clients who are not necessarily those of YCC. The wording will be revised to outline that research activities are focused on aging and/or long-term care.

The terms of reference for all board committees should be revised to reflect the number of appointed members and will be reviewed by the Governance and Audit Committee.

Motion:

It was moved by T. Burkhardt, seconded by G. Beattie that the revised terms of reference for the Research and & Ethics Committee be approved as amended.

Motion carried.

4.2 Code of Ethics & Professional Conduct

A revised Code of Ethics & Professional Conduct document was included in the meeting package. At the last committee meeting it was recommended a small sub-committee meet to review the Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct document. Revisions were presented and reviewed with further edits suggested. Many of the edits involved comparing the employee professional conduct document and the internet usage section.

Changes will be presented at the next meeting of the committee.

4.3 CANHealth Network update

G. Geldart reported two meetings with CAN Health have taken place and preparations for the signing of the agreement is moving forward.

G. Geldart reported CANHealth has approximately \$30 million in funding to spend over a four-year period. There is also funding that is available from ACOA that will expire at the end of March, so they are looking for small projects which could be completed in that timeframe. CANHealth has requested a priority list of the top 2 or 3 projects that YCC would consider, the focus will be to look at projects that can assist with patient care and reduce workload demand.

5. Research & Ethics Report for Q2 – July 1, 2022 to September 30, 2022

J. Henry presented the report for Q2. The report was included in the meeting package.

Highlights included:

Symposium Update

- Approximately \$31,000 raised at this point.
- There are approximately 250 delegates registered for in-person attendance. 30 for virtual attendance.
- Social Development has agreed to subsidize two people to attend from all nursing homes in the province.
- Lieutenant Governor's award recipients will be announced during the symposium.

Status of Current Research Projects

- Virtual reality to promote rehabilitative exercises for seniors – this project is wrapping up recruitment and will continue to collect data until the end of December 2022.
- Promoting Physical Activity with Augmented reality experiences – The intervention

- period is now completed. The focus will now be on data compilation, analysis and reporting.
- CanImmunize – 8 participants, 10 people with forms are “maybes”, 3 mini surveys done with ineligible participants.
 - MedReviewRx – Project will be featured in the upcoming HSPP Community of practice meeting and government showcase.
 - Palliative e-learning – all modules are completed and in itacit. The poster tester survey is live and will be completed the end of December.
 - Genie – very popular. Project extended until the end of October 2023.
 - Passive Aware – project shifted to focus on case study design.

Progress on Strategic Goals – update was provided and currently are all on track with the exception of CIRA research portal which is slightly behind pending website design.

J. Henry spoke on funding opportunities with NBCC and the Centre for Healthy Aging and Brain Health Innovation.

6. New Business

Nil.

7. Date of Next meeting – January 17, 2023

On a motion by G. Beattie the meeting was adjourned at 5:20 pm.

Keith McAlpine, Chair

Susan Dickie, minutes



RESEARCH & ETHICS COMMITTEE

Terms of Reference

Background

The Research and Ethics Committee is a standing committee established by the Board of Directors in compliance with its corporate bylaws.

Purpose

The purpose of the Committee is to make recommendations to the Board to ensure that ethical standards and research activities reflect the Vision, Mission and Values of the organization.

Scope

The Committee is focused on providing an academic/research environment that promotes professional development and stimulates research activity combined with and applied to a full suite of long-term care services. The work of the committee includes:

1. Ensuring appropriate policies are in place that respect the ethical standards of the organization as well as applicable privacy legislation.
2. Reviews the Code of Ethics on an annual basis and making recommendations to the Board if changes are required.
3. Reviewing policies proposed by the President & CEO related to ethical and research matters and recommending those that it supports for approval by the Board of Directors.
4. Encouraging innovation, health promotion and knowledge transfer through the following:
 - Increase involvement in research activities that focus on promotion and improving the social, emotional and physical well-being of seniors
 - Fostering relationships with researchers, stakeholders and members of the community
 - Promoting and supporting the translation and transfer of research outcomes, new knowledge and innovation to the betterment of the aging population.
5. Reviewing and approving proposed research initiatives; monitor related President and CEO actions in support and, when necessary, recommending action for the Board's consideration.
6. Monitoring adherence to the Code of Ethics and initial goals and objectives based on staff responsibilities of all research projects and, when necessary, recommend remedial action for the Board's consideration.
7. Ensuring that research activity remains focused on aging and/or long-term care.

Structure

Reporting to the Board, the membership of the committee includes the chair, and a minimum of two additional board members appointed by the board. The President and CEO and other appropriate members of the senior leadership team attend as non-voting members. Other guests may be invited at the discretion of the committee chair to support discussion. The Committee may add community members.

All committee members will be appointed for a two-year term, with the option to serve additional terms.

Quorum

A quorum shall consist of at least 50% of the members.

Meeting Frequency

The Committee will meet at least quarterly, or at the request of the Chair.

Approved: November 8, 2022

January 2022

CODE OF ETHICS & PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

For Employees and Members of the Board



CODE OF ETHICS & PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

Message from the Board Chair and the President and Chief Executive Officer

The reputation of our organization is shaped by our actions, choices, and decisions each day. Together, we must:

- Work in the best interests of our residents and clients
- Act fairly and objectively
- Recognize and address conflicts of interest
- Think about how our actions may impact our residents, co-workers, clients, and community partners

Exercise our best judgment

- Protect the confidentiality of the information entrusted to us
- Come forward if we see something significant or material that we think is not in the best interests of the people we serve or our organization
- Have the courage to stand up for what is right

Our Code of Ethics & Professional Conduct (Code) outlines the values, principles and standards of conduct that guide our actions and interactions.

The Code is at the heart of our bylaws, principles, directives, policies, procedures, protocols, standards, codes of practice and any other applicable guidelines, regulations and directives that set out how we conduct ourselves as we carry out our work on behalf of York Care Centre, The Centre for Innovation and Research in Aging, and York Developments, herein referred to “The Organization”.

Sincerely,

Lyne St. Pierre-Ellis
Board Chair

Geri Geldart
President & CEO

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CODE OF ETHICS & PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

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CODE OF ETHICS & PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

APPLICABILITY

The provisions of this Code are mandatory and full compliance is expected from all board members, employees, and volunteers.

Although specific elements of this Code are employee-specific, contractors and business partners are expected to also comply where the provisions are relevant to doing business with the organization. For greater clarity, where applicable, the term 'employees' is inclusive of everyone working or doing business (paid or unpaid) with the organization.

This Code will be supplied to each employee at the time of hiring and will be reviewed, by employees when doing their annual on-line education modules. Any employee who becomes aware of a contravention of the Code must report the facts promptly to his or her supervisor or to a higher authority or see that they are so reported. Employees who make reports in good faith regarding another employee will be protected against retaliation, discipline, and other sanctions as stipulated in the *Whistleblower Protection Policy and the Public Interest Disclosure Act*.

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Employees who are members of professional bodies, such as nurses, licensed practical nurses, and accountants must also conform to their respective professional codes of conduct.

Each department may have additional Operational Policies and Procedures that may be applicable in a particular situation. Employees should familiarize themselves with the applicable rules within their department as well as Corporate Policies and Procedures.

The Research and Ethics Committee of the Board of Directors has been charged with the responsibility for monitoring compliance of the Code with respect to the Board of Directors and President & CEO.

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CODE OF ETHICS & PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

PURPOSE OF THE CODE

Employees continue to show their support for maintaining a commitment to excellent care to residents of the nursing home, tenants of its independent and supportive living units and clients in the community.

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This Code was developed with an understanding that personal integrity is quality of character and cannot be created by written rules. However, in assessing their conduct against general standards of integrity, employees may require some guidance.

The primary purpose of this Code is to provide such guidance to employees in making lawful and ethical decisions during employment.

Employees must fully comply with the rules contained herein which, when used with sound judgment and common sense, protect the organization, its employees, residents, tenants and clients in the community. Employees who breach the Code may be subject to disciplinary actions up to and including termination of their employment.

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BASIC OBJECTIVES

Underlying the Code of Ethics are the following objectives:

- To provide information about standards and practices for employees, prospective employees, and other stakeholders.
- To promote universal understanding and application of ethical standards.
- To assist employees and directors in avoiding situations that might give rise to unprofessional conduct and/or conflict of interest.
- To encourage the most efficient and productive use of corporate resources while discouraging wasteful or fraudulent practices.
- To promote fair and honest dealings amongst employees, fair hiring and promotion practices, and equitable treatment of all employees.
- To assist Senior Leadership and the Board of Directors in carrying out their responsibility of ensuring integrity of operations.

CODE OF ETHICS & PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

ABIDING BY THE LAW

The organization has an obligation to comply with all applicable laws and regulations. Employees play a key role in maintaining such compliance.

Employees should make themselves aware of the complex and changing laws and regulations applicable to their functions. Should an employee be in doubt about these legal requirements or their responsibilities, they should contact Human Resources. A safeguard for employees is strict adherence to this Code, policies and procedures, operating rules, and regulations, including governance rules and financial signing limitations.

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NON-DISCRIMINATION/RESPECTFUL BEHAVIOUR

All persons are equal in dignity and human rights without regard to race, colour, national origin, place of origin, ancestry, religion, age, marital status, sex (including pregnancy and gender identity), sexual orientation, physical disability, mental disability, social condition (includes source of income, level of education and occupation), political belief or activity.

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All employees are required to understand and adhere to the York Care Centre Code of Professional Conduct.

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We seek to foster and promote safety, competence, care, respect, recognition, and inclusion in the workplace.

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CODE OF ETHICS & PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

HIRING

The organization has implemented and follows policies governing the hiring of new employees. Employees involved in a hiring process are required to be familiar with and adhere to these policies.

RELATIONSHIPS WITH SUPPLIERS

The organization strives to maintain the highest ethical standards in its buying practices. In purchasing materials and services from numerous suppliers within and outside of New Brunswick, we subscribe to the principles outlined in the *Procurement Act* and the *Crown Construction Contracts Act*.

Employees responsible for buying, leasing, or otherwise acquiring materials and services are required to be familiar with these Acts and are required to follow the various procedures laid out by their department.

The organization does not require suppliers to forgo trade with others seeking similar service or products in the marketplace. It may, however, refuse to deal with a supplier who is in an actual or perceived conflict-of-interest situation.

REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION

Unless prohibited by law, the organization meets all reasonable requests for information and provides information that is accurate, complete, and comprehensible. All requests for information are dealt with by the President & CEO and/or their designate.

PUBLIC STATEMENTS/COMMENTS

On behalf of the Board of Directors, the President & CEO and/or their designate is the official spokesperson for the organization. Other than the CEO, board members, employees, volunteers, and contractors may not make any public statement or comment on policy issues on behalf of the organization, unless authorized by the President & CEO. This restriction applies to all forms of expression, including use of social media.

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The reputation of the organization represents significant effort to generate goodwill. No employees may make any public remarks that disparage its services, brand, reputation, or personnel.

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CODE OF ETHICS & PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

PUBLIC INTEREST DISCLOSURE (WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTION)

The organization maintains a position of public trust and employees are expected to conduct themselves with honesty and integrity throughout the course of performing their duties. The *Public Interest Disclosure Act*, known as whistleblower legislation for the public service, provides the framework for the disclosure and investigation of significant and serious matters in the public service that are potentially unlawful, dangerous to the public or injurious to the public interest. The Act also provides protection to those employees who make a disclosure.

All employees are encouraged to become familiar with the *Whistleblower Protection Policy* and to make disclosures about any serious wrongdoings. The *Whistleblower Protection Policy* and related procedures are supplement to the Code of Ethics.

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Commented [GG2R1]: Unfortunately, many of the corporate policies are quite out of date. This will need to be addressed by the Senior Leadership Team over the next 1-2 years.

Comment only.

CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION – NON-PERSONAL

Confidential information gained by virtue of employment with the organization shall not be used for personal gain, and disclosure of said information to anyone outside is strictly prohibited without permission either during the employee's term of employment, or at anytime thereafter. As a function of their employment, employees should share confidential information on a need-to-know basis only.

CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION – PERSONAL

Employees may from time to time collect, use, and have the need to disclose personal information of its residents, tenants, clients of the community, fellow employees and/or third parties. The collection, use and disclosure of personal information shall be in strict compliance with the *Personal Health Information Privacy and Access Act*.

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All employees shall adhere to the security measures as set out under the corporate policy [C-08 - Confidentiality - Employees](#) as well as any procedures and guidelines approved by their department.

CORPORATE PROPERTY

Employees are responsible for the protection of all corporate property, including intellectual property, documents, electronic data and information, equipment, tools, materials, supplies and vehicles, including exercising safeguards to prevent theft, negligence or misuse. [Without permission from the appropriate Director](#), employees may neither loan nor borrow corporate property for their personal use or the personal use of others. Specific processes exist and must be followed for the sale or destruction of corporate property.

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Question raised at last R+E regarding who is the appropriate authority.

CODE OF ETHICS & PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

MISAPPROPRIATION

Employees are prohibited from making use of corporate funds, assets, or property, including electronic and information facilities, for their own personal gain or benefit, or from knowingly assisting another in such misappropriation.

The acquisition, disposal or removal of funds and assets by employees in the course of their employment must be transparent, and funds or assets must not be diverted for other than their proper use.

CORPORATE BUSINESS RECORDS

Corporate business records must be prepared reliably and accurately. They are of critical importance in meeting our financial, legal, technical and management commitments. They are to be carefully safeguarded and kept current, relevant and accurate. Records should be disclosed only to authorized personnel or in accordance with lawful processes. In addition:

1. No unrecorded or inadequately recorded fund or asset shall be established or maintained.
2. No false, artificial, or misleading entries in the books and records shall be made.
3. No transaction shall be affected, and no payment shall be made with the intention or understanding that the transaction or payment is other than as described in the documentation evidencing the transaction or supporting the payment.
4. Records may only be destroyed according to the applicable retention standards.

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SOFTWARE USAGE

Software agreements licensing the use of software permit the use of that software only in a specific manner. The agreements also typically contain clauses restricting the duplication, modification, conversion or otherwise alteration of the product. All employees must strictly adhere to provisions contained in the various agreements.

INTERNET USAGE

The organization may provide employees with access to the information resources of the Internet with the intention of providing access to knowledge while increasing productivity. It is important to use the Internet in a manner that ensures any actions fall within the corporate policies and acceptable levels of performance.

In addition to corporate restrictions, employees must be aware of and abide by restrictions relative to the downloading or copying of any material on the Internet including, but not limited to copyright restrictions regarding multimedia and music.

All employees are required to be familiar with and adhere to the corporate policy on Use of wireless devices.

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CODE OF ETHICS & PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

in the Workplace and Social Media Policies.

WORK ETHIC

Employees are expected to show a strong work ethic, both with honesty regarding working hours and with concentration while at work. However, lack of concentration is sometimes not deliberate but is due to personal circumstances beyond the employee's control. Theft of time, that is, doing more than a nominal amount of personal business on company time, is prohibited.

Employees who find themselves distracted or preoccupied by personal issues during working hours should talk to their manager and/or seek assistance from Employee and Family Assistance programs which can be accessed through the Human Resources department.

EXPENSES

Employees are required to ensure that reasonable expenses are charged only in accordance with corporate policy.

Anyone spending corporate money or personal money that will be reimbursed is expected to strive to ensure good value.

RELATIONSHIPS

The organization makes substantial efforts to avoid compromising, or the appearance of compromising, the objectivity and reputation of our employees or the Corporation. Employees must maintain an appropriate relationship with those who report to them or to whom they report.

In addition, employees are required to maintain a professional boundary between themselves and the residents/tenants/clients, and their partners and families, and other people chosen by the residents/tenants/clients to be involved in their care. Interactions of a sexual nature between a staff member and a resident/tenant/client are prohibited. All employees are required to understand, sign and adhere to York Care Centre's Code of Professional Conduct.

This section of the Code is not intended to impede the development of strong working relationships between employees or the development of appropriate relationships with our residents, tenants, and/or clients.

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Theft of time, that is, doing more than a nominal amount of personal business on company time, is prohibited.

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At last R+E, suggested that Human Resources be consulted on wording Revisions presented for consideration.

CODE OF ETHICS & PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

DRUG AND ALCOHOL-FREE WORKPLACE

The organization is committed to the highest practical standards of health and safety by providing a safe and comfortable work environment for all its employees and contractors. Due to the nature of our operations, all employees are considered to be in 'designated safety-sensitive positions'.

The organization recognizes that the use of illegal or non-prescription drugs, alcohol or any other controlled substances ~~can adversely affect job performance, the work environment and the safety~~ of our employees, residents, and the public.

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To help ensure a safe, healthy workplace, the organization strictly prohibits its employees and/or its contractors from reporting to work while under the influence of any illegal or non-prescription drugs, alcohol or any other controlled substances including recreational and/or medical cannabis.

OUTSIDE EMPLOYMENT

While the organization recognizes its employees' right to privacy and their right to make use of their spare time as they see fit, care should be taken by employees in accepting outside employment. For example, employees should not accept outside employment:

1. When the employment or business activities encroach on working hours or otherwise adversely affect, in a real or perceived way, an employee's performance on the job;
2. When the employment results in an obligation that could affect, in a real or perceived way, the employee's judgment or ability to act in the best interests of the organization.

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Employees have the right and are encouraged to become active members of their respective communities. With appropriate management approval, support of non-profit organizations may occasionally involve the provision of a limited number of "in-kind" services.

Outside activity must not be allowed to interfere with the employee's performance on the job, nor must it conflict with the organization's responsibilities or best interests.

Political activity by any employee is governed by provincial government guidelines and employees are required to be familiar with and adhere to these guidelines.

CODE OF ETHICS & PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

All employees must conduct their duties in a manner reflecting the best interests of the organization. Conflict of interest exists in any situation where an employee's ability to fulfill their responsibility may be adversely affected by their private interests or personal considerations. While it is difficult to provide a comprehensive list of conflict-of-interest situations, in general terms it can be said that an employee should avoid any situation that could:

1. Impair the employee's judgment, initiative, or efficiency on the job.
2. Give rise to questions of integrity in relation to employees exploiting the vulnerability of persons who are or have been in our care.
3. Be harmful or detrimental to the Corporation's activities or reputation.

GIFTS AND BRIBERY

The organization subscribes to the principles outlined in the *Procurement Act and the Crown Construction Contracts Act* and holds a position of public trust. It is essential to preserve its reputation for fair and unbiased business dealings by avoiding any reasonable apprehension of bias in its relationship with suppliers. Bribery or kickbacks in the criminal sense (the giving or accepting of money or valuables intended to influence decisions) is generally obvious and is strictly prohibited. However, exchanging of gifts on a lesser scale can be a grey area, since it is a routine aspect of modern business practice that organizations give and receive small gifts for promotional or recognition purposes. It is acceptable for employees to participate in the giving or receiving of such gifts provided the item has a real or perceived value that is nominal (generally considered to be under \$100 Canadian). If you are offered or receive a gift whose value is greater than nominal, you should refuse and/or return the item promptly, together with an explanation of the organization's policy.

In addition, employees are expected to act in ways that cannot be interpreted as, or do not result in employees gaining personal benefit from their position. Accepting gifts, favours of hospitality may compromise the professional relationship with our residents and/or tenants. Gifts of more than a token value could be interpreted as the employee gaining personal benefit and/or taking advantage of a vulnerable resident and/or tenant in an attempt to gain preferential treatment. Under no circumstances are employees to ask for or accept loans or bequests from residents and/or tenants or anyone close to a resident and/or tenant.

CODE OF ETHICS & PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

ENTERTAINMENT

An employee may not participate in excessive or extravagant entertainment while conducting business on behalf of the organization. This is not intended to preclude, the exchange of reasonable meals, social amenities or hospitality between persons doing business together.

PRIVATE BUSINESS BENEFIT

It is a conflict of interest for an employee to participate in, or attempt to influence, a corporate decision that could result in financial benefit to that employee or his/her immediate family. Examples include the awarding of contracts for the supply of goods or services to a company in which the employee has a private interest.

Transactions with a business owned, ~~controlled or influenced~~ by an employee are prohibited unless written approval is requested and received from the Board of Directors.

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CONCLUSION

This Code is designed to reaffirm the value of high ethical standards and to provide employees with certain rules of behavior. The topics included herein are neither complete nor exclusive but will serve to give employees a clearer understanding of what is expected. Ethical conduct however is, and always will be, every employee's responsibility.

Employees must fully comply with the rules contained herein which, when used with sound judgment and common sense, protect the organization, its residents and/or tenants, its employees, and the public. Employees who breach the Code may be subject to disciplinary actions up to and including termination of their employment.

In the event questions arise concerning the application of a specific rule or policy, an employee should consult his or her supervisor. Should the situation not be resolved at this point, the employee or supervisor shall refer the matter to Human Resources.

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REPORT TO THE RESEARCH & ETHICS COMMITTEE

October 1st, 2022 – December 31st, 2022

Quarter 3

The purpose of this report is to apprise the Board's Research and Ethics Committee of key activities within each quarter of the fiscal year, including an update on key performance indicators and the strategic plan's research pillar. Accordingly, the Committee receives four reports per year with content from the following senior leaders.

Senior Leaders

Justine Henry, Executive Director of CIRA
Jamie Roy, Vice President, Care Services & Quality

Key Areas of Reporting

Research Services
Ethics

1. General Commentary

Symposium 2022 - Complete

- Huge success
- Lieutenant governor award recipients presented – Dr. Pam Jarrett and Urban Rural Rides
- Over 280 attendees
- Plan underway for next year

Funding

- Applied to SPARK funding from CABHI – 4 projects total; funds available is \$50,000 per project.
- Projects: One-Page Profiles, Dementia Empathy and Role Playing, Tai Chi, Passive Aware

2. Status of Current Research Projects

Virtual Reality to Promote Rehabilitative Exercises in Seniors

- Data collection complete:
 - 31/48 facility-based participants: Carleton Manor (6) + York Care Centre (14) + Nashwaak Villa (3) + Windsor Court (1) + Orchard view (2) + Loch Lomond Villa (4) + Brunswick Hall (1)
 - 16/48 home-based participants in the community.
- The project has finished recruitment, participation, and outcome measures of all participants in facilities-based and home-based groups.
- Data analysis underway

Promoting Physical Activity with Augmented Reality Experiences

- Total participants – 10 (YCC) + 21 (Faubourg du Mascaret, Moncton) – 31
- The intervention period has been completed at both sites. The focus is now on data compilation, analysis, and reporting.

- A project update was provided during the virtual HSPP and APPTA Government Showcase on December 1, 2022.
- Strategies to support access to and sustained use of the 2RaceWithMe technology at both YCC and Faubourg du Mascaret will be explored in Q4 2022-23.

CanImmunize

- No significant updates or changes since last quarter, but project extension approved by funders
- Recruitment remains a challenge, expanded to ~45 mins from Fredericton

MedReviewRx

- All study sites have completed intervention data collection
- Implementation evaluation and end of study feedback interviews have been conducted at all sites
- 11 clinicians have completed the User Feedback Survey
- 6 clinicians have completed the Acceptability & Feasibility Survey

Palliative e-Learning

- 12/12 modules deployed to staff (see below for # of participants)
 - Module 1 – 75
 - Module 2 – 69
 - Module 3 – 65
 - Module 4 – 75
 - Module 5 – 84
 - Module 6 – 70
 - Module 7 – 68
 - Module 8 – 80
 - Module 9 – 72
 - Module 10 – 50
 - Module 11 – 43
 - Module 12 - 40
- 38 post-test surveys completed
- Data analysis underway

Genie

- Recruitment and pre-intervention data collection finished; recruited 67 older adults

(intervention + control), 36 family facilitators, 7 staff, 9 site facilitators

- Currently analyzing pre-intervention data + we will begin mid-intervention data collection

Passive Aware

- No significant updates or changes since last quarter
- Will be doing a project demo at the Grand Bay Westfield Age Friendly Committee Meeting next month
- Engaging with other researchers to seek out alternate sources of funding

3. Operational Updates

There have been no significant operational updates or changes in since the last quarter.

4. Progress on Strategic Goals

Strategic Goal	Operational Goal	Metric	Progress
1. To increase involvement in research activities that focus on promoting and improving the social, emotional and physical well-being of seniors.	a. Apply for three funding opportunities to advance research initiatives and support the on-going employment of research staff. (Henry)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Three funding applications submitted before March 31, 2023	Primary applicant on the Age-Well at Home – Scaling up for Seniors. Funding to support 2 full-time staff (only one application per organization permitted). Partner applicant on a CFN grant with Dr. Sandra Magalhaes. Partner applicant on another Age-Well at Home – Scaling up for

			Seniors with Dr. Mark Chignell. ON TRACK
	b. Develop a “CIRA Research Portal” to accompany the York Care Centre Family Portal to increase visibility, accessibility, and participation in research initiatives.(Henry)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CIRA Research Portal fully implemented by October 31, 2022 	<p>CIRA page placeholder created. CIRA has access to the WordPress account. Design and content being developed.</p> <p>OFF TRACK – pending website redesign</p>
2. To foster relationships with researchers, stakeholders and members of the community.	a. Host a one-day research symposium open to stakeholders, researchers and community members. (Henry)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research symposium successfully held by November 30, 2022 	COMPLETE
3. To promote and support the translation and transfer of research outcomes, new knowledge and innovation for the betterment of the aging population.	a. Develop a subscriber newsletter to promote research initiatives and support the dissemination of research findings to stakeholders, collaborators, and community members. (Henry)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Newsletter 1st edition drafted by July 2022; first distribution on September 1, 2022. 	<p>Completed. Second edition December 1st, 2022.</p> <p>COMPLETE</p>
	b. Explore research-based models for the sustainability of the organization and funding sources for the commercialization of current research technologies (Henry)		<p>On going discussion with CANHealth Network. Awaiting new contract for review.</p> <p>ON TRACK</p>

Executive Summary

Who we are:

- The project is co-led by two teams at the Public Health Agency of Canada:
 - the Behavioural Science Office (BeSciO) - providing research expertise
 - Antimicrobial Resistance Task Force (AMR TF) - providing subject matter expertise
- A working group of expert stakeholders (nurses and physicians) is advising the PHAC team.

Background:

- Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is pertinent in long-term care facilities (LTCFs) housing older adults who are clinically frail and at high risk of infection and subsequent antibiotic use (1,2).
- Urinary tract infection (UTI) is a leading indication for antibiotic use in LTCFs and a high proportion of these prescriptions are not aligned with guidelines (3).
- Asymptomatic bacteriuria (ASB) – the presence of bacteria in the urine, which causes a positive urine culture, without the clinical symptoms of UTI (4) – is common in LTCF residents and contributes overprescribing of antibiotics.
- We propose an antimicrobial stewardship (AMS) intervention that takes an upstream focus on urine culture ordering, with the aim of reducing unnecessary antibiotic prescriptions for UTI.

Summary of requirements of LTCF partners:

- Timely delivery of data to PHAC, including: (1) a one-time delivery of retrospective facility and demographic data to provide historical perspective to the trial findings, and (2) monthly delivery of key data pieces throughout the 8-month trial period (i.e., control and intervention phases).
- Attendance by nursing and physician staff to a one-time level-setting education session just prior to the initiation of the intervention phase.
- Assistance to the PHAC research team in implementing the interventions (details below).
- Facilitating availability of staff (one nurse, physician, and administrator per facility) for 45-60 minute semi-structured interviews following the trial to assist in the qualitative evaluation of the trial.

The Trial:

- The trial is a stepped wedge cluster randomised controlled trial (RCT) that will test a multifaceted intervention aimed at promoting judicious use of diagnostic testing and antibiotic treatment of UTI in a sample LTCFs across Canada.

Using behavioural science to improve antibiotic stewardship in Canadian long-term care facilities

- 10 public LTCFs will be recruited across 5-6 provinces, each with approximately 200 residents.
- To evaluate the trial, we will assess the number of urine cultures and urinary antibiotic prescriptions before and after implementation of the interventions. Semi-structured interviews will be used to provide a nuanced understanding of barriers and drivers to success of the intervention.

The Intervention Bundle:

We identified these intervention approaches based on literature reviews, stakeholder interviews, and guidance from our expert stakeholder working group. Our intention is to address two key barriers to AMS: perceived pressure from essential care providers (ECPs; typically family or close friends of a resident) for the overuse of UTI testing/treatment and perceived risk of non-testing/treatment by nurses/physicians, all while keeping demands of front-line staff low.

- In the **pre-intervention phase:**

An introductory education session (45-60 minutes) will be held for all nursing and physician staff at the initiation of the intervention period. The session will be held in-person or via webinar by a PHAC team member. The goal is to provide level-setting (i.e., getting everyone on the same page) and an introduction to the trial.

LTCF role: Liaise with PHAC team to coordinate scheduling for these sessions such that all staff receive the training in approximately one-month, attendance of staff.

- In the **intervention phase**, there will be two primary intervention strategies:

1. Targeted ECP education

- Monthly education sessions (30-60 minutes) held in-person or by webinar with the aim of updating ECP understanding and equipping them to advocate for the judicious use of urine cultures and antibiotics for UTI.
- **LTCF role:** Liaise with the PHAC team to refer ECPs to these sessions, identifying 2-3 staff to receive training from the PHAC team and deliver the sessions.

2. Facility-level peer-comparison feedback about urine culture usage

- Anonymous feedback given to nurses and physicians on a monthly basis with the aim of highlighting the variability in urine culture usage across sites, emphasizing shifts towards more judicious use, and safety of aligning with guidelines.
- **LTCF role:** Liaise with PHAC team to identify communication channels through which nursing and physician staff may receive the feedback document. Monthly delivery of key data pieces throughout the 8-month trial period to help PHAC team develop feedback document.

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Timing:

Milestone	Data
1. Retrospective facility and demographic data	February 2023
2. Pilot intervention in one facility	April – May 2023
3. Trial Phase (remaining nine facilities to begin control phase and transition to intervention phase)	June 2023 – January 2024
4. Qualitative follow-up	February – March 2024
5. Analysis and preparation of final report	April 2024 – June 2024

References

1. Eze, Niruka; Cecchini, Michele; Hashiguchi TCO. Antimicrobial resistance in long-term care facilities. OECD Health Work Pap No 136. 2022;171–4.
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4. Nicolle LE. Asymptomatic bacteriuria: review and discussion of the IDSA guidelines. Int J Antimicrob Agents. 2006 Aug;28:42–8.