

Welcome to Fireside Chat # 428
15th January, 2014 1:00 – 2.00 PM Eastern Time

(Teleconference open for participants 10 minutes prior to starting time)

Doing Comparative Policy Research in the Real World

**Lessons Learned from a Comparative Analysis of Team Based
Primary Health Care in Three Provinces**

**Dr. Sara Mallinson and Dr. Renee Misfeldt
Workforce Research and Evaluation,
Alberta Health Services**



www.chnet-works.ca Canadian Health Human Resources Network, University of Ottawa

Step #1: *Teleconference*

All Audio by telephone

- If your line is 'bad' – hang up and call back in
- Participant lines muted
- Recording announcement



Step #2: *The Internet Conference* (via 'ADOBE CONNECT')

No audio via internet

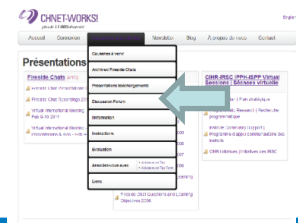
- SEE the PowerPoint being shown.
- Post your comments/questions.
- See postings from your colleagues.
- Join in the interactive polls.



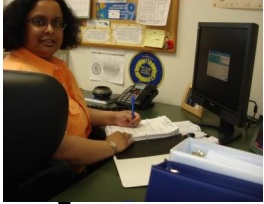
Difficulties? You can still participate! (use the back up PowerPoint - post your comments via email)

Step #3: *Back up PowerPoint Presentation*

www.chnet-works.ca



How to post comments/questions during the Fireside Chat



Joining in by
**Telephone + Adobe Connect Internet
Conference**

Use the text box...

Please introduce yourself!

- **Name**
- **Organization**
- **Location**

- **Group in Attendance?**



Joining by
Telephone + Backup PowerPoint

By email:
RSVP to the access instructions email



ADVISORS ON TAP

Sara Mallinson PhD

Research and Evaluation Consultant, Workforce Research & Evaluation

Background and interests: Sociologist and health services researcher with an interest in qualitative research methods, diverse evidence synthesis, and experiences of health and illness.

Renee Misfeldt PhD

Senior Research and Evaluation Consultant, Workforce Research and Evaluation

Background and interests: Applied health services researcher with interest in workforce research, primary health care, and remote and rural service delivery

WORKFORCE RESEARCH AND EVALUATION

- Research unit within AHS Research Portfolio
- Interdisciplinary Masters and PhD trained research team
- Focus on health system integration and workforce

<http://www.albertahealthservices.ca/wre.asp>

THE COMPARATIVE POLICY ANALYSIS TEAM

Core Team at WRE:

- Esther Suter, Renee Misfeldt, Sara Mallinson, Amanda Wilhelm, Omenaa Boakye



Research Committee

- BC: Louise Nasmith, Sabrina Wong
- AB: Crista Carmichael, Caroline McAuley, Daniel Lai
- SK: Dennis Kendel, Greg Marchildon, Andrea Wagner, Adam Mills

Funder:

- Canadian Institutes of Health Research Healthcare Renewal Policy Analysis Funding Competition 2012

THE PRESENTATION

- Comparative research project on team based primary health care
 - ✓ Approach
 - ✓ Quick overview of findings
 - ✓ Lessons from the Research Trenches
 - ✓ Road taken and it's bumps

Question for participants!

What province/territory are you from?



*Answer via Adobe Connect : Poll
OR RSVP to access instruction email*

- BC
- AB
- SK
- MB
- ON
- QC
- NB
- NS
- PEI
- NL
- YK
- NWT
- NU
- Other



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Question for participants!

Adobe Connect Poll OR RSVP to access instruction email

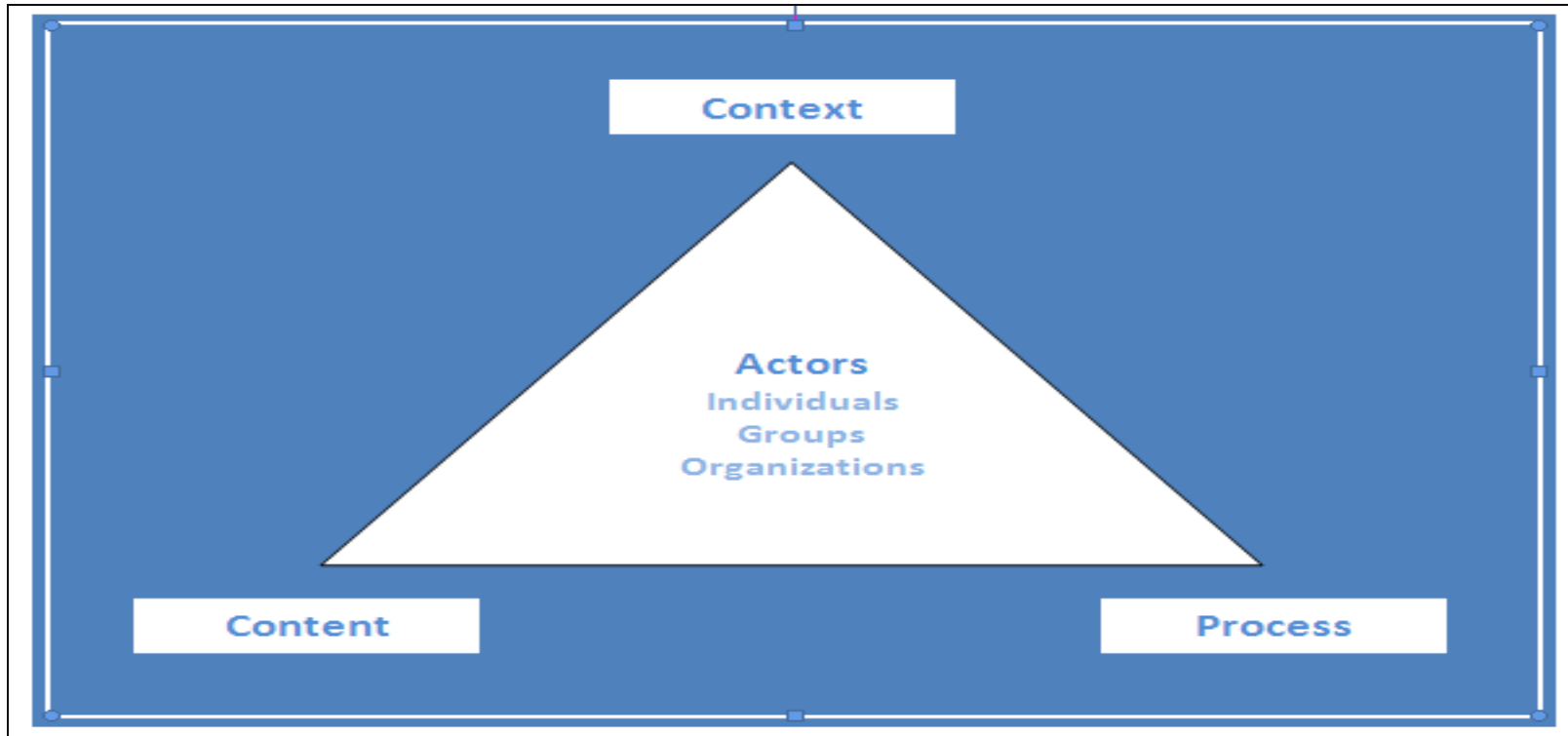
- **What is your role?**
 - Researcher
 - Practitioner
 - Manager
 - Decision Maker
 - Policy Maker
 - Policy Analyst
 - Other



OUR RESEARCH

- We focused on team based primary health care in British Columbia, Alberta and Saskatchewan and asked:
 - How is team-based care conceptualized and defined in policy documents?
 - Are similar mechanisms used to guide the implementation, oversight and administration of team-based primary health care?
 - What policies, regulations and legislation are needed to support team-based primary health care?

THEORY: THE POLICY TRIANGLE



Source: Walt G, Gilson L. Reforming the health sector in developing countries: the central role of policy analysis. *Health Policy and Planning* 1994;9:353-70.

OUR APPROACH

Diverse evidence synthesis --pulling together different types of information in a systematic way to illuminate the primary health care 'policy triangle'

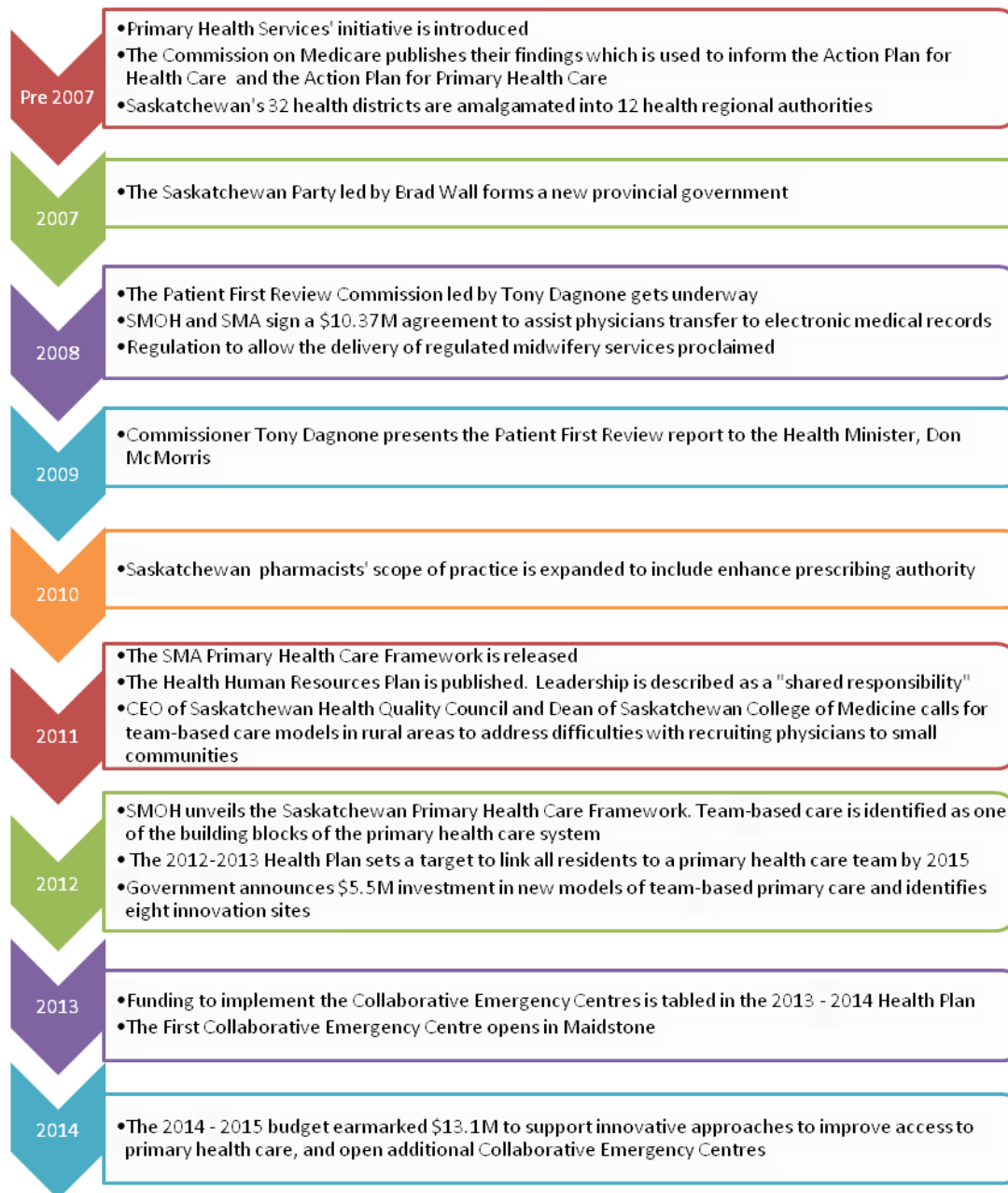
- 1) Context review
- 2) Policy review
- 3) Key informant interviews
- 4) Policy Options
- 5) Roundtable



1) CONTEXT REVIEW

- Larger research team started us off with suggested local links
- Used Health Editions to search for primary care headlines to follow up
- Context narrative and timelines drafted for each province

Example: Saskatchewan Timeline



2) POLICY REVIEW

- Publicly available policies from 2006/2007 and on
- Website searches + snowballing from contacts
- Formal extraction tool with focus on teams
- Provincial policy synthesis
- Comparative analysis



3) KEY INFORMANT INTERVIEWS

- Telephone interviews with 29 key informants
 - ✓ Validation of policy synthesis
 - ✓ Views on current policy
 - ✓ Key policy options



4) POLICY OPTIONS

- Analysis started with identification of key policy options



- The Wider research team reduced the long-list of 13 options to a short-list of 4 through an independent ranking process



5) ROUNDTABLE

- Full day meeting with senior stakeholders from all three provinces
- Facilitated discussion on:
 - The acceptability of the policy options
 - Implementation considerations
 - Future steps



FINDINGS: A QUICK OVERVIEW

- Local PHC context (history, politics, actors etc)
- Formal policy documents (what's written)
- Cross-provincial policy imperatives (what's needed to make progress)

LOCAL PHC CONTEXT

- Role of Politics in Setting Policy for Team Based Primary Health Care
 - Getting primary health care up on the political agenda is hit and miss
- Provider Power Dynamics
- Economic Downturns

FORMAL POLICY DOCUMENTS

- There are overarching policies outlining the strategic direction for primary health care in the three provinces
- Conceptualization/description of team-based care is very broad
- Team-based PHC is positioned within wider context of system transformation; however, system alignment is missing
- Lack of clarity and detail on structures, accountability, scope of practice in interprofessional teams
- No detailed operational guidance for implementation
- No clear performance monitoring expectations

POLICY IMPERATIVES



Question for participants!

Adobe Connect OR RSVP to access instruction email

Would these policy imperatives work in your jurisdiction to promote team based care? Why or why not?



...there were some bumps in the road...



Bump#1! Crafting a local context

Setting boundaries and keeping things feasible.

- Where do you get an overview of locally ‘significant’ issues?
- How do you ensure consistency and transparency?
- How do you keep a context review focused?



Bump #2! So, what's a policy?

We needed consistency across the provinces

- Different levels of policy
- Publically accessible vs. internal
- Is a framework a policy? Is a position paper a policy?



Question for participants!

Adobe Connect OR RSVP to access instruction email

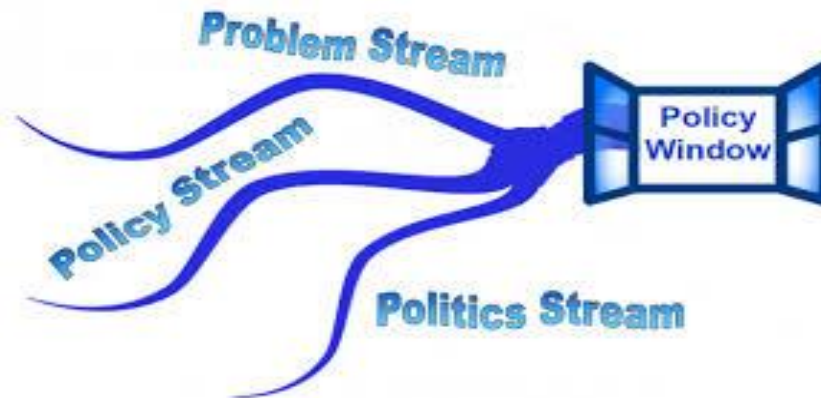
How would you define policy?

-Does your organization have a written definition of “policy”?



Bump #3: Researching in Real Time

- Politics and policy
- Organizational churn
- Policy publication – timing challenges



Bump #4: Lived experience vs what's on paper

- Policies don't always match what's happening on the ground.



Question for participants!

Adobe Connect OR RSVP to access instruction email

Is there a gap between written policy and action?

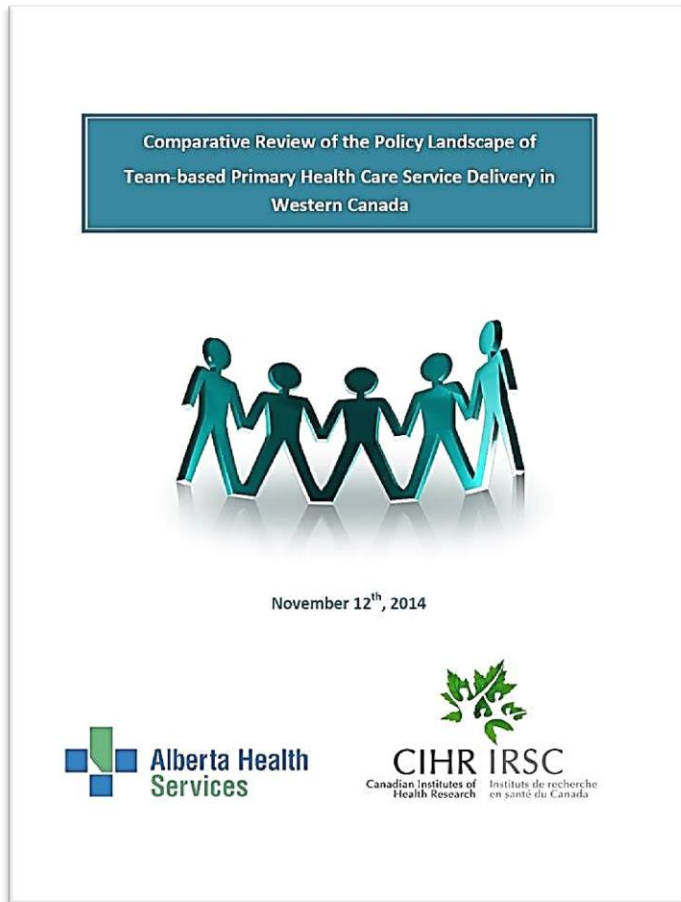


Bump #5: Connecting the Dots...

- **How do we pull this diverse evidence together?**
 - Chronological approach
 - Highlighting relevant issues - not trying to make direct links
 - Acknowledged that we could only do something selective/focused on primary audiences needs



For further information on the research



Please contact Sara:
sara.mallinson@albertahealthservices.ca

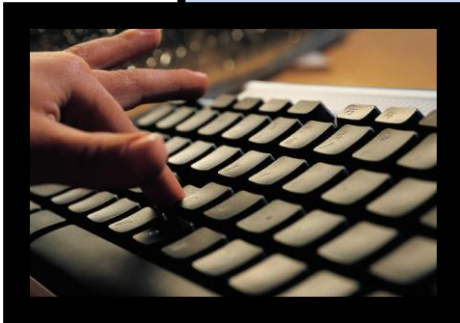


Your comments/questions please!



Joining in by:
Telephone + Adobe Connect Internet Conference

Use the Text Box...



Joining by:
Telephone + backup PowerPoint?

By email: Respond to the access instruction email *mail*



A final question for participants!

Adobe Connect OR RSVP to access instruction email

What actions will you take as a result of participating today?

- Share the information with my colleagues
- Use the information to support our current research
- Use the information to start to develop a new piece of work
- Visit the WRE website
- Find out more about the policy triangle!
- Other



Thanks for joining in!



Our next Fireside Chat:



**#429 Age-Friendly Communities Evaluation:
Evaluating your Age-Friendly Community (AFC) Initiative**

January 22, 2015 1:00 – 2:30 PM ET

More information/to register:

www.chnet-works.ca