

## Council – June 2023

### Patient Relations Committee Annual Report

#### Role of the Committee

The Patient Relations Committee (PRC) supports CNO's commitment to promote safe nursing practice. The *Regulated Health Professions Act, 1991* (RHPA) outlines two specific roles for the PRC:

- advise Council with respect to the patient relations program, which must include measures for preventing and dealing with patient sexual abuse
- administer funding for therapy and counselling for patients who are named in a sexual abuse complaint or report.

#### Executive Summary

##### Patient Relations Program (PRP)

There were significant additions to the patient relations program in 2019 and 2020. No changes were made in 2022. Some of the previous changes include:

- guidance for nurses and other stakeholders (e.g. a [fact sheet](#) to support understanding of sexual abuse)
- a [fact sheet](#) with warning signs so nurses can stop behaviours before they progress to sexual abuse
- [case studies](#)
- an [employer tool kit](#)
- [videos to support harm prevention](#).

Further, new [web content](#) was added to the public sexual abuse webpage including a [fact sheet](#) to understand how the public participates in CNO's sexual abuse processes and a [fact sheet](#) related to therapy funding.

##### Request for funding

In accordance with Ontario law, the PRC approved the one funding request it received in 2022 related to a sexual abuse complaint or report. Payment from the fund is provided directly to the therapist or counsellor. Restrictions regarding the therapist or counsellor include that: the therapist or counsellor cannot be a family member and must not be a person who has been found guilty of professional misconduct of a sexual nature, or been found civilly or criminally liable for an act of a similar nature.



## **Committee Members**

### **January to June 2022**

Sandra Robinson, Chair, NP

Terry Holland, RPN

Maria Sheculski, Public Member

Naomi Thick, RN

Diane Thompson, Public Member

### **July to December 2021**

Naomi Thick, Chair, RN

Raj Kaur, RPN

Fidelia Osime, Public Member

Maria Sheculski, Public Member

Patricia Sullivan-Taylor, RN, Public Member

## **Staff Contact**

Kevin McCarthy, Director, Strategy, [KMcCarthy@cnomail.org](mailto:KMcCarthy@cnomail.org)