

Behavioural Supports Ontario: Using integrated systems of care to support seniors in Haliburton County



Elishya Miscio, GAIN BSO Clinician (left), Leigh-Ann Gourlie, Occupational Therapist (right) and their patient (middle).

An 84 year old female patient living alone in an apartment was referred by a Primary Care Physician and Seniors Health Nurse with the Haliburton Family Health Team regarding significant and rapid cognitive decline. The patient was seen in her apartment the same day referral was received by Geriatric Assessment and Intervention Network (GAIN) Behavioural Supports Ontario (BSO) Clinician and Occupational Therapist. The patient presented with delirium and was hearing women talking upstairs that were not allowing her to use the bathroom or get dressed during the day. Family was contacted and the patient was taken to the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Emergency Department for a delirium work-up. She was successfully treated for a delirium related to Urinary Tract Infection.

During subsequent GAIN BSO Clinician visits, it was identified that the patient was not taking medications as missed blister pack doses were noted, and follow up was conducted with the pharmacy. Shortly after, during an appointment with geriatrician Dr. Ingram, the patient was diagnosed with Alzheimer's Disease and medication changes were made to reduce confusion. A referral to the GAIN CCAC Care Coordinator was made to discuss potential Long-Term Care (LTC) placement and initiate in-home support.

The patient now receives visits daily at 12:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. for meal preparation assistance and medication checks. She is seen regularly by the GAIN BSO Clinician for education and support for her diagnosis. The patient is stable at this time and is able to remain independently in her home. She continues to be able to make decisions, be involved in future planning and has applied to LTC.

"I am really proud of the successful clinical support I was able to provide to my client and of the collaboration with my GAIN inter-professional team members and with the local Family Health Team. I was happy to be able to respond quickly – on the same day to avoid further decline for my client. This case also provided a great example of the value of the GAIN teams for the local health care partners in the community."

- GAIN BSO Clinician Elishya Miscio, April 2016