ACTION for health

Applied Communication Technology: Information . Organizations . Networks

NOT FOR CIRCULATION	
FOR INTERNAL CIRCULATION	
FOR PUBLIC CIRCULATION	X

Overview of Project Progress to Date

March 2, 2005

ACTION for Health

Document Status:

- ☐ Published Paper
- ☐ Working Paper
- ☐ Report
- ☐ Draft
- ☒ Presentation

- ☐ Practitioner's Pointers
- ☐ Briefing Note
- ☐ Research Tool
- ☐ Overview
- ☐ Other

Prepared by:

Ellen Balka
Principal Investigator, ACTION for Health
Simon Fraser University

Document Contact:

Ellen Balka
School of Communication
Simon Fraser University
8888 University Drive
Burnaby, BC, Canada V5A 1S6

tel: +1.604.725.2756
email: ellenb@sfu.ca
website: www.sfu.ca/act4hlth/
SFU Institutional Repository: http://ir.lib.sfu.ca/handle/1892/3701

ACTION for health

Overview of Project Progress to Date

March 2, 2005

Ellen Balka, Ph.D.
Professor, Simon Fraser University
Senior Research Scientist, Vancouver Coastal Health Research Institute

Year 1.....

The Good.....

- ❑ Project coordinator hired
- ❑ Post-doctoral fellows and other staff hired to support thematic coordination
- ❑ Nearly all projects slated to begin in year 1 have
- ❑ Project Steering Committee in place
- ❑ Web site is up and has content!

The Bad.....

- ❑ 2 office moves of Vancouver staff and (finally!) required infrastructure is in place

The Ugly.....

- ❑ Grant transfers, travel claims

Impressive List of Outputs…..

Published papers (conference proceedings; others under review)

Working Papers & Draft Papers (many and varied)

Reports (e.g., content analysis of 7 health web sites)

Practitioners' Pointers (Dos and don'ts of EPR implementation)

Briefing Notes (e.g., about implementation of patient records)

Research Tools (e.g., development of a tool for health web site analysis; annotated question bank of questions used in survey of theme 1 issues)

Conference Presentations (Health Literacy conference, EASST/ 4S, Participatory Design, etc.)

see www.sfu.ca/act4hlth then click on publications link

Work Undertaken to Date

Issues Arising for Health Care Providers:

❑ Study of implementation of automatic drug dispensing machine in acute care sector

❑ Study of electronic patient record implementation at community clinic

  ❑ Patient views of the EPR implementation
  ❑ Challenges related to meeting health authority needs and Ministry of Health needs

❑ Study of wireless hospital paging system

❑ Ongoing review of issues related to development and use of indicators

Ethical & Legal Issues:

❑ Review of ethical and legal issues arising across sub-projects

❑ Identification of potential legal issues

❑ Prioritization of legal issues warranting further investigation in progress
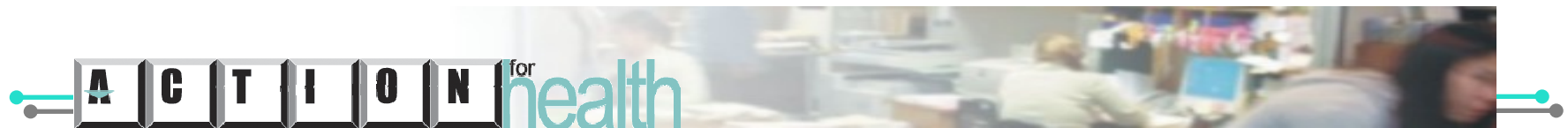
Other Activities

Other Dissemination Activities:
- ❑ Participated in SSHRC's "Knowledge Project"
- ❑ Presentations to Industry Canada and Health Canada
- ❑ Presentations to Health Authority

Mid-Year Meetings:
- ❑ in conjunction with Health Literacy Conference, Oct.
- ❑ in conjunction with CSCW conference, Oct.
- ❑ in conjunction with Ellen's trips to Ottawa

Spin-off Activities
- ❑ CIHR grant application (AIDS- Harris, Rootman, Bella)
- ❑ EU Workshop Proposal (in process)

Goals for next few days

Increase awareness of work undertaken within other sub-projects;

Identify areas for collaboration amongst co-investigators within themes as well as collaboration between themes

Identify and concretize plans for dissemination

Provide informal opportunities for people to discuss issues

(thoughts so far: Theme 1 questions; methods used across projects, etc.)

Prime the team for preparation for mid-term review (tentatively scheduled for September)

Update on administrative issues
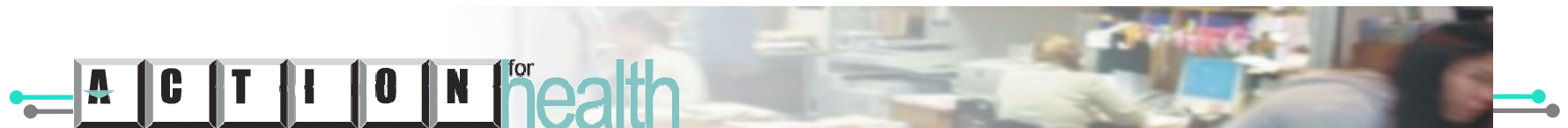
Enjoy this fabulous group of people

Theme 2

Overview of Theme

Two foci:

Work practice studies (issues of standards, tensions between global and local work practices)

Relationship between information systems and indicators

Brief Sub-Project Reports

The development of health information standards (Patrick)

Information systems and indicators

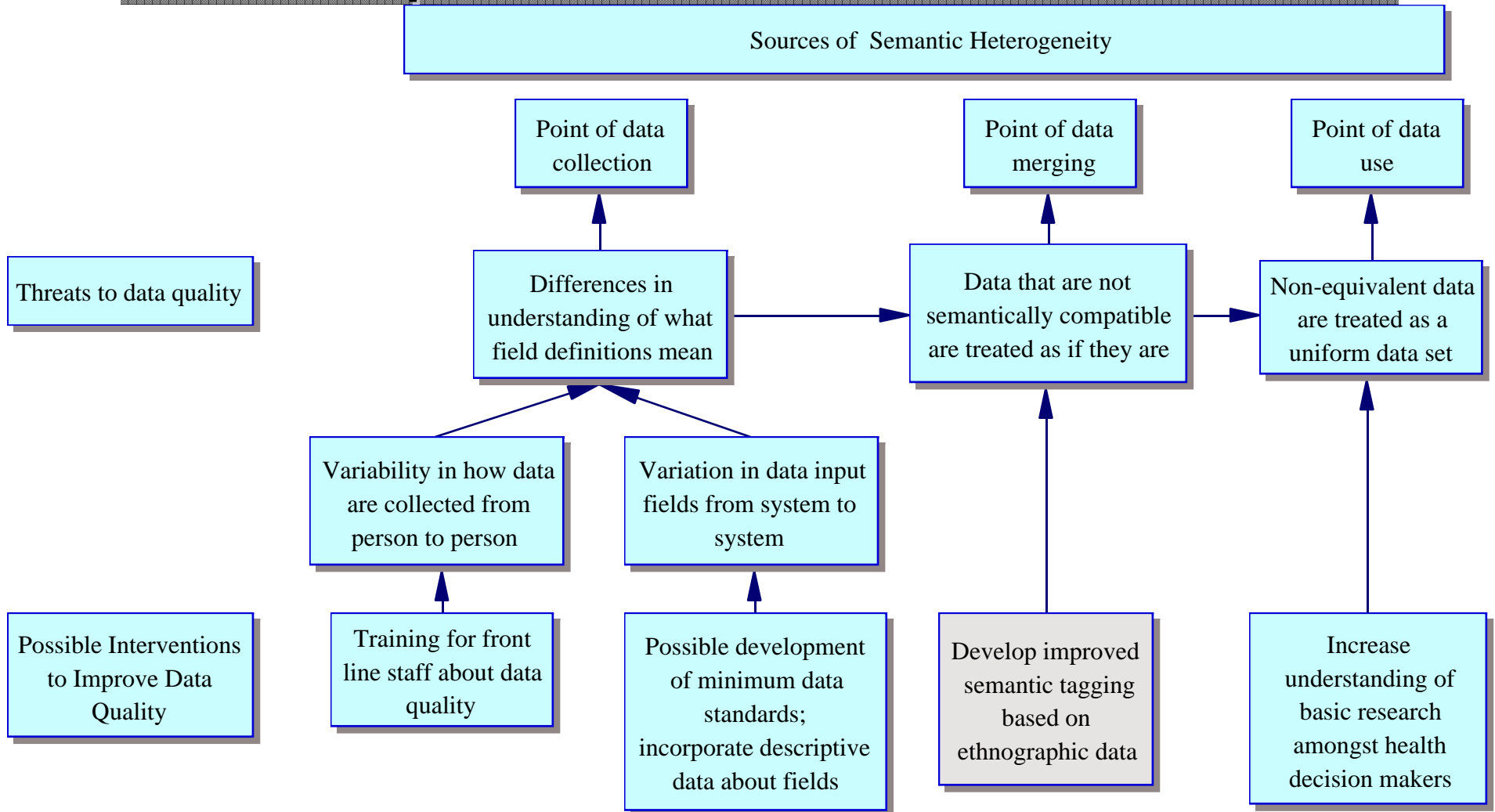- Ellen (overview and Hugh Armstrong piece; Karen, Kate, Casper)

Introducing an Electronic Patient Record system at the Mid-Main community Clinic (Nina)

Wireless Nurse Call System (Casper)

Hand held computers in Palliative Care (Francis and Craig)

KAV Project (Ina)

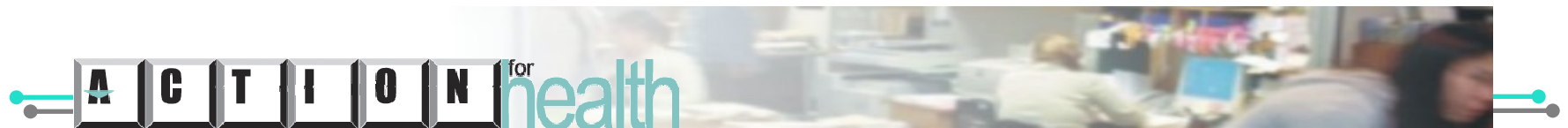# Information technology and issues related to development and use of indicators

Sources of Semantic Heterogeneity

Point of data collection	

Point of data merging

Point of data use

Threats to data quality

Differences in understanding of what field definitions mean

Data that are not semantically compatible are treated as if they are

Non-equivalent data are treated as a uniform data set

Variability in how data are collected from person to person

Variation in data input fields from system to system

Possible Interventions to Improve Data Quality

Training for front line staff about data quality

Possible development of minimum data standards; incorporate descriptive data about fields

Develop improved semantic tagging based on ethnographic data

Increase understanding of basic research amongst health decision makers

A C T I O N for health

Other Activities

Development of an STS glossary

- ❑ Guidelines for field studies
- ❑ Joint Activities with EU teams working on related projects

Future Issues and Directions

- ❑ Linking the two foci within the themes
- ❑ Identifying themes common to thematic sub-projects projects
- ❑ New Field Sites---
- ❑ rural telehealth sites (Whistler urgent care and Bella Bella under development with IMIS at VCH)
- ❑ digital radiology (incoming student? An interest from radiology)

Questions and Comments?