

**THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF ST. THOMAS**

**HEALTH RECRUITMENT PARTNERSHIP**

**ROOM 309**  
**CITY HALL**

**9:00 A.M.**

**August 31, 2015**

1. Approval of Minutes – June 24, 2015
2. Activity Report and Recruitment Projects: Cheryl Fish, Health Recruiter
3. Fall Round Table Forum – September 18, 2015
4. Request for Funding - Physician Recruitment
5. 2015 Student Scholarships
6. New Business
7. Unfinished Business
  - a) Francis Osih – Partnership Funding
8. Next Meeting
9. Adjournment

## St. Thomas-Elgin Health Recruitment Partnership

Update Report July & August 2015

### Activities:

- 1) The recruitment process for a new family physician in Port Stanley is complete. Contracts have been signed, renovations are underway and new equipment is scheduled for delivery by Aug. 31<sup>st</sup>. Dr. Kristin Richter will be joining the Bell Centre family physician team on Oct. 1<sup>st</sup>. Dr. Richter was invited to the Sept 18<sup>th</sup> symposium unfortunately she is unable to attend, but has agreed to work on creating a video announcing her decision to join that team.
- 2) On July 9<sup>th</sup> I organized and hosted a teleconference with representatives from the Ontario Medical Association (OMA) Greg Powers and Jeff Morganstern. We were joined by several new grads an existing family physician and other stakeholders interested in finding out answers to a list of previously prepared questions regarding how the “Managed entry process” for new physicians into a new FHO and the “High Physician Needs” designation will affect them and their ability to form a new FHO. This was a worthwhile exercise.
- 3) Since receiving a designation as a “High Physician Needs” area St. Thomas has been working on setting up a new FHO. A new grad continues to express interest in being the lead physician and is working hard to find 5 other compatible partners to join his team. The Ministry and the LHIN will be working throughout the summer to review and develop new criteria for this designation and will be releasing a new list as of Oct 1<sup>st</sup>. Jane Tillmann from Health Force Ontario has been working very closely with Paul Joudrey from the LHIN and has advised that if an area is going to maintain that designation they must have a plan supported with data. Jane is aware of St Thomas’s plan and we’re working on collecting the data necessary. We have also made other communities within Elgin County aware and will continue to work with them if they desire to form a FHO.
- 4) Elmdale Medical Centre- Dr. Haruta continues to progress with his new medical building. Interest has been expressed from a Pharmacy, Laboratory, Physiotherapy and several existing family physicians and specialists. Space is filling up nicely. Demolition was completed, design plans are complete and the contractor is scheduled to commence construction as soon as the building permit has been issued. Dr. Haruta is extremely supportive of the physician needs in our area and is being very co-operative and

accommodating to meet their requirements. He has investigated providers of an Electronic Medical Records system so this technology will be available to his building occupants. He has written to Dr. Gord Schacter from the LHIN expressing a concern and requesting support for the challenges on co-ordinating the timing of the new FHO with the new medical centre completion date. The anticipated date is still targeted for May 2016.

- 5) On July 8<sup>th</sup> I met with Jackie Harris the new Primary Care Co-ordinator for the Central Community Health Centre. We updated each other and decided that we could work together on a couple of issues. An example would be a referral list. This seems to be a common concern with new physicians. Jackie requires an additional 1.6 family physicians and a Nurse Practitioner. I have provided contacts for both of these positions.
- 6) In response to an email from UWO they are desperate to find accommodations in St Thomas within walking distance to the hospital for their students throughout the summer and school year. I met with several local contacts, some options were identified. Patricia Potter contacted and met with the home owners to confirm the accommodations meet the universities standards. They are pleased to have two new immediate options and Dr. Haruta has suggested that he would consider providing an option to assist UWO with accommodations starting in the New Year.
- 7) In June I received an email from Jenny Reynaert the Administrator/Deputy Clerk for the Town of Aylmer asking for information on the "High Physician Needs" list. We met on June 25<sup>th</sup>. As a result of this meeting I suggested that maybe an information session for Aylmer Council might be beneficial. On July 14<sup>th</sup> Jane Tillmann from Health Force Ontario made a presentation on the Ministries "High Physician Needs" list and I presented on the role and accomplishments of the St Thomas-Elgin Recruitment Partnership Committee. I also asked Claudia Mior- Eckel from the East Elgin Family Health Team to join us. Following the presentations a councillor expressed their frustration with the ongoing shortage of family physicians in Aylmer. The council requested to have a representative placed on the recruitment committee. I advised that I would take this request back to the committee for discussion at our next meeting.
- 8) Plans for our fall symposium scheduled for Sept 18<sup>th</sup> from 7:30-10:30am are progressing well. Hold the date notices went out on July 23<sup>rd</sup>. Invitations will be sent out by Aug 21<sup>st</sup> requesting RSVP's by Sept 11<sup>th</sup>. The St. Thomas Golf Club is reserved, several presenters are confirmed. The OMA will present on succession planning, the LHIN will present on the High Needs designation and the managed entry process for new

physicians and a new FHO. The final details on which facilitator will be used should be completed within the next few days and they will assist with facilitating and planning details for the brain storming and idea sharing portion of the agenda. I'm looking forward to another successful event.

- 9) In July and Aug I sent introduction emails to 3 family physicians who will be graduating in Oct reminding them of the opportunities we have available in Elgin county and requesting a meeting. I met with Kimberly Boughner and received contact info for 12 residents doing placement at STEGH and will contact them to set up appointments to meet while in St Thomas.

I also met with a resident doing a placement at Dr. Scott's office. I have added her to our data base to continue to stay in touch. I met with a summer student who wants to be a physician. I will provide her with a couple of contacts who might help mentor her during her first year. I sent emails to our 2014 scholarship recipients to touch base. I had contact with 8 physicians in Elgin County during July & Aug.

We have been approached by a physician looking to take over a retiring physician practice in St Thomas, they have requested to be considered for our incentive program.

- 10) I met with Patricia Potter from UWO on July 22<sup>nd</sup>. We discussed the Medlinc and Discovery Week programs and the changes that are taking place. I updated her on what is happening in Elgin County and she provided updates on the Schulich Program. It was a great opportunity to strengthen our association with UWO.
- 11) I will be attending the "Discovery Day" event on Aug 26<sup>th</sup>. This event is arranged by UWO. Forty medical students will visit Elgin County and will be provided a tour of the hospital and the Central Community Health Centre. Jackie invited me to attend the BBQ they have having at the end of the tour. This is a great opportunity to meet some first year medical students.
- 12) On Sept. 23<sup>rd</sup> I will be attending the McMaster University Recruitment Retreat. Approximately 48 first year medical students will be attending this recruitment breakfast.

Submitted by: Cheryl Fish