

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

**HEALTH RECRUITMENT PARTNERSHIP**

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

**3:00 P.M.**

**December 15, 2015**

1. Approval of Minutes – October 27, 2015
2. Theresa Agnew – Nurse Practitioner’s Association  
Ms. Agnew will be in attendance to provide an overview of the Nurse Practitioner’s Association and the work of Nurse Practitioners
3. Dr. Derek Haruta – Update on project status  
Dr. Haruta will be in attendance to provide an update relating to his medical facility
4. Activity Report and Recruitment Projects: Cheryl Fish, Health Recruiter
5. Update – Town of Aylmer Health Recruitment
6. New Business
7. Unfinished Business
  - a) Francis Osih
8. Next Meeting
9. Adjournment

St. Thomas –Elgin Health Recruitment Partnership Committee  
Update Report Nov. & Dec. 2015

Activities:

- 1) Two medical students Emily Ballantyne and Jeff Metz were awarded the Partnership's Scholarship award for 2015. Letters notifying them were sent out on Nov 2<sup>nd</sup> along with invitations to the "Home for the Holiday" luncheon. Jeff Metz will be attending to receive his award.
- 2) I attended the Family Medicine Residents' retreat (FMRW) organized by the residents at UWO on Saturday Nov. 21<sup>st</sup> in Grand Bend. Laurie Spence Bannerman the CAO from Dutton Dunwich accompanied me. The booth was a busy place with many residents asking the question "Are we a High Needs Area" followed by what "Opportunities do we have." This year 70 residents attended FMRW down slightly from 80 last year. We received 30 contacts from residents wishing to discuss the opportunities that exist in St Thomas & Elgin County. Twenty three of them are 2<sup>nd</sup> year residents graduating in June of 2016 and seven were 1<sup>st</sup> year graduating in 2017. I have met with two of the residents to begin working on the opportunity they expressed an interest in and emails have been sent to the remainder requesting a convenient time to meet. This was a good event providing lots of opportunity to network and obtain contact information.
- 3) On Nov. 21<sup>st</sup> I met with Kimberly Boughner at STEGH for an update and to request information for the recruitment event. I was provided with the contact information for 12 residents who had attended a placement at the hospital. Initial contact has been made with these residents requesting a convenient time to meet to discuss what opportunities exist in Elgin County.
- 4) Home for the Holiday lunch will take place on Tuesday Dec. 22<sup>nd</sup> at noon at the St Thomas Golf and Country Club. RSVPs are requested by Dec. 11<sup>th</sup>. Following a discussion with W. Graves an email was sent out to committee members requesting their thoughts on expanding the criteria for invitations to include our new physicians in the area as well as those individuals we are working on recruiting. The response confirmed it was a good idea so an additional 15 invitations were sent out. Reminders will be sent the week of Dec. 8<sup>th</sup>. This has been a great event providing the opportunity to network and build relationships.
- 5) On Oct 30<sup>th</sup> I had a telephone conversation with Greg Powers our regional representative with the Ministry who informed me that our designation as a "High Physician Needs" area has been extended until June 2016. This included St Thomas, Dutton Dunwich and Central Elgin. He was hoping to have updated notices sent out by the end of November, but would be happy to respond verbally if called. This is good news as it extends beyond the time frame when new physicians are graduating. I continue to make new physicians and new grads aware that an opportunity exists to form a new FHO and put them in contact with each other.

- 6) As requested at the last meeting of the committee, I have contacted the Nurse Practitioners' Association requesting a short presentation at our meeting on Dec. 15<sup>th</sup>. Theresa Angew will be joining us to provide the committee with an understanding and education on the role of a NP and insight into this professions direction in Primary Health Care.
- 7) On Nov 26<sup>th</sup> I attended a dinner event hosted by the SW LHIN. The focus of the meeting was to provide an opportunity for input from stakeholders on "Strengthening Primary Health Care." The LHIN is hosting five engagements for physicians, NP's & other allied health professionals and primary care administrators. The session focused on building an understanding of primary health care capacity and current primary care planning in the South West through presentations and interactive discussions. The session provided an update and feedback from primary care providers. It provided a learning opportunity about what is working well and the challenges primary care providers are experiencing related to meeting the needs of patients across the South West LHIN. Presenters included Dr. Gord Schacter, Primary care Lead. Dr. Cathy Faulds, Past President, Ontario College of Physicians and Michael Barrett, CEO SW LHIN.
- 8) On Nov 24<sup>th</sup> I had lunch with Jean Cole the manager for the Northwest building located at 230 First Ave.; she shared her plans for renovating the facility once some of the tenants leave. The renovations will provide space for 3 physicians to work as a group. I'm looking forward to working with her on this project.
- 9) Construction of Dr. Haruta's new medical centre began on Nov. 23<sup>rd</sup>. He is having discussions with Physicians and other allied health care providers regarding leasing potentials and design of the new building. He continues to re-confirm his commitment to providing a facility that will meet the needs of physicians wishing to practice in a group setting thus encouraging new physicians to St Thomas and Elgin County.
- 10) I had a conversation with Dr. Kristin Richter the new physician who started her practice at the Bell Centre in Port Stanley. She confirmed that things are going very well and she is very pleased with her decision to come to the area. She is presently renting a home in St Thomas and will be looking for a more permanent option in the spring. In the new year Dr. Richter would like to start connecting with new grads to discuss the potential for them to join her. I have two contacts who are graduating in June 2016 so I will put them in touch with her.
- 11) I have been asked to try to find locum coverage for Dr. Toth since the new grad covering his practice two days a week has decided not to stay until May 2016. I have also been asked to find locum coverage for Dr. Green starting in late February.
- 12) I met with Jackie Harris from the Central CHC to discuss the response she received from the ads she placed to fill her opportunities. The responses have been good and she is proceeding with arranging interviews. I'm forwarding contacts I received from the FMRW event.

13) I emailed Dr. Thomas prior to attending the FMRW to request direction from him on how to present his practice opportunity. I received a telephone call advising me that he is planning on retiring in June 2016 and that he would be interested in meeting with potential candidates. I will send out info on this opportunity and will forward responses when received.

14) I did research and provided information to residents on how to proceed with a focused practice, how much time must be provided for their after hour's coverage and is income stabilization still possible with a new FHO.

Respectfully submitted by:

Cheryl Fish

Health Recruiter