

**THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF ST. THOMAS, THE COUNTY OF ELGIN,
AND THE ST. THOMAS-ELGIN GENERAL HOSPITAL
HEALTH RECRUITMENT PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE**

COMMITTEE ROOM # 309, CITY HALL

JANUARY 27, 2015

3:05 p.m. The meeting convened with Councillor C. McWilliam, Chair, presiding.

ATTENDANCE

Councillor C. McWilliam, Chair, County of Elgin
Councillor S. Wookey, City of St. Thomas
Dr. K. Scott, Elgin Medical Association
Cheryl Fish, Health Recruiter
Mark McDonald, CAO, County of Elgin
Wendell Graves, CAO/Clerk, City of St. Thomas
Matt Smale, Corporate Administrative Clerk

Absent

Dr. N. Whitmore, St. Thomas-Elgin General Hospital

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on November 25, 2014 were confirmed as circulated.

Activity and Recruitment Report

The members were in receipt of an activity report from the Health Recruiter for the months of December and January 2015.

The members discussed the “Home for the Holidays” event.

Councillor Wookey noted that as a first time attendee, he enjoyed the professional yet casual atmosphere of the event.

Dr. Scott noted that the setup could be modified in future years to encourage conversation.

Ms. Fish stated that she was receiving more inquiries from building owners interested in establishing “medical centres” and recruiting physicians into their buildings.

The members discussed the fact that the Health Recruiter’s role in assisting with these inquiries should be to provide information to building owners on what kind of things physicians tended to look for when considering medical facilities.

Proposed 2015 Budget

The members were provided with a proposed 2015 budget for the partnership. That budget included a listing of projects undertaken by the partnership and an approximate cost for assigned to each of those projects.

Councillor Wookey inquired how the recent agreement with the hospital fit into the budget process.

Mr. Graves advised that the agreement with the hospital provided funding for two physician spaces at a rate of \$33,000 each. That funding had been sourced from the 2014 health partnership budget.

Moved by Coun. Wookey – Dr. Scott:

THAT: The 2015 preliminary Health Recruitment Partnership budget be approved as presented.

Carried.

New Business

Dr. Scott provided the members with information related to negotiations between the OMA and the Province. These negotiations would have significant impact on family medicine including the establishment of different FHO, FHT, FHG funding models.

Dr. Scott noted that the current Provincial proposal was being imposed on existing health care

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providers.

The members discussed the impact of the negotiations on Elgin-St. Thomas including the potential for moratoriums on the establishment of new Family Health Teams and Family Health Organizations.

The members discussed the provincial definition of an “underserviced” area and the formula by which those areas would be determined. It was agreed that more information was required as to how the Province was defining “high need” and “priority area”.

Ms. Fish reiterated for the members that currently no communities in Elgin-St. Thomas with the exception of West Elgin had a rurality score that allowed them to be considered an underserviced area. She further added that even though St. Thomas and surrounding area were short of family doctors, the Provincial calculations may be somewhat skewed due to the number of physicians at the hospital.

Dr. Scott and Ms. Fish stated that the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care had been reluctant to speak to the definitions and potential impacts. A statement was anticipated on these issues at the beginning of February.

The members noted that the classification of the area would have an impact on determining if Elgin-St. Thomas was eligible to be considered for new FHOs, or FHTs. Dr. Scott added that regardless of the impacts, new Family Health Groups or Comprehensive Care Manager models may still be considered for this area by the Ministry.

The members discussed the need to engage MPP Yurek’s assistance in lobbying to be classified as an underserviced area.

It was agreed that more information was required on the Provincial classification formulas before a strategy was devised.

The members suggested inviting a representative of Health Force Ontario or the LHIN to a future meeting to provide this clarification.

Unfinished Business

Dr. Haruta Medical Building

Mr. Graves advised that the site plan and zoning applications for the proposed centre had been submitted to the City Planning Department.

Round Table Stakeholder Session

The members were in receipt of a draft action plan arising from the round table stakeholder sessions.

Ms. Fish stated that the plan was largely the same as had been presented at the previous meeting with a few minor revisions.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for March 10, 2015 at 3:00 pm.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 pm.