

**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**

**AUGUST 31, 2015**

9:00 p.m. The meeting convened with Councillor C. McWilliam, Chair, presiding.

**Attendance**

Councillor C. McWilliam, Chair, County of Elgin  
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**

Councillor S. Wookey, City of St. Thomas  
Dr. N. Whitmore, St. Thomas-Elgin General Hospital

**Minutes**

Mr. McDonald noted that County Council was not required to approve each physician funding application individually. Approval of applications could be done at the Partnership level subject to budget availability.

The members noted this change

The minutes of the meeting held on April 14, 2015 were confirmed as amended.

**Report of the Health Recruiter**

Ms. Fish presented her report for the months of July and August.

The members were informed that Ms. Fish and Ms. Tillman from Health Force Ontario had recently made a presentation to Aylmer Council on the activities of the partnership and the “high physician needs” listing completed by the Ministry of Health. Aylmer Council discussed the possibility of having a town representative serve on the partnership.

Mr. Graves stated that he would follow up with Aylmer’s CAO on the matter.

The members discussed the fact that Chair McWilliam served on the Partnership as the representative of all Elgin municipalities. Appointing an Aylmer specific member may open the door to all lower tier municipalities seeking individual representation.

Ms. Tillman had noted that the Province would be reviewing the high needs area listings again in the fall.

Mr. Graves noted that Dr. Richter was expecting to begin practice in Port Stanley by early October.

**Fall Round Table**

Ms. Fish stated that a facilitator had been contacted who had done similar work throughout the area. “Save the date” cards had already been sent out and a draft invitation created.

Ms. Fish advised that the RSVP date was September 11, 2015 and that topics to be covered at the symposium would include succession planning, the high needs classification (LHIN). Dr. Haruta would also be providing a brief update on his medical centre project.

Dr. Scott advised that she would forward invitations to members of the Elgin Medical Association.

The Symposium was scheduled for September 18, 2015 at 8:00 a.m.

**Request for Funding – Physician Recruitment**

Mr. Graves advised that a request for \$50,000 funding had been received from Dr. Carter. Dr. Carter was a hospitalist who was looking to move into family medicine and assume the practice

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of an existing retiring family physician.

Mr. Graves noted that Dr. Carter was proposing to hire a Nurse Practitioner to assist him and so the \$50,000 request was for one Physician position and one Nurse Practitioner.

The members discussed the fact that funding Nurse Practitioner positions had not been done in the past and could open the Partnership up to receiving multiple requests.

Dr. Scott stated that the Partnerships focus had been to provide additional primary care services in St. Thomas Elgin. If Nurse Practitioner positions were to be funded, a stipulation should be made that they must provide primary care.

The members discussed the fact that in cases where new offices or practices were not being established, funding for Nurse Practitioners may not be increasing the number of patients with access to primary care. The funding could also be seen as a wage subsidy to the hiring office/team.

Dr. Scott stated that allowing the funding may not assist greatly in recruitment efforts but could assist in physician retention efforts.

The members agreed that as existing physicians reached retirement age, access to nurse practitioners could help ensure that primary care was still accessible to those patients that may otherwise be left without a family physician.

Mr. McDonald stated that it would be beneficial to set an amount per Nurse Practitioner position similar to what had been done for physicians

Moved by Chair McWilliam – Dr. Scott:

THAT: The Partnership concur with funding of \$15,000 for primary care Nurse Practitioner positions subject to budget availability.

Carried.

Moved by Dr. Scott – Chair McWilliam:

THAT: Funding of \$33,000 for one physician position be recommended for the proposal received from Dr. Carter in 2016; and further,

THAT: Funding of \$15,000 for one primary care Nurse Practitioner position within Dr. Carter's practice be recommended for 2016 subject to the successful execution of agreements.

Carried.

### **2015 Student Scholarships**

The members noted that the scholarships had traditionally been presented at the "Home for the Holidays" event. Possible event dates were set as December 22<sup>nd</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup> or January 4<sup>th</sup>.

### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting is scheduled for October 27, 2015 at 3:00 p.m.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 3:50 pm.