

**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

OCTOBER 27, 2015

3:10 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
Matt Smale, Corporate Administrative Clerk, City of St. Thomas

Absent

Wendell Graves, City Manager, City of St. Thomas
Dr. N. Whitmore, St. Thomas-Elgin General Hospital

Minutes

Moved by Dr. Scott – Coun. Wookey:

THAT: The minutes of the meeting on September 3, 2015 be confirmed.

Carried.

Report of the Health Recruiter

The members were provided with a health recruitment report for the months of September and October, 2015.

Ms. Fish stated that the Elgin Medical Association had dedicated space within its newsletter for submissions by the Health Recruiter. The association has been a valuable asset for connecting with local physicians. One issue that the Medical Association had suggested the partnership could assist with was a physician recognition program.

The members were informed that Ms. Fish had been successful in finding part time locum coverage for Dr. Toth.

Ms. Fish stated that she had recently attended and would be attending a number of recruitment events including a recruitment fair at McMaster, barbeque at the Central Community Health Centre and an upcoming retreat for UWO medical residents in Grand Bend on November 21st.

Health Symposium Review

Ms. Fish advised that the Health Symposium had been a success with over 30 attendees of which approximately 14 were physicians.

A final summary report had been prepared and forwarded by Ms. Sanchez-Keane, Facilitator. Ms. Fish would send that report to Partnership members for review and comment and then provide it to each of the event participants.

Medical Student Scholarship

Mr. Smale advised that two scholarship applications had been received. One applicant was a previous recipient, the other was a first time applicant.

The members discussed the applications.

Moved by Coun. Wookey – Dr. Scott:

THAT: 2015 Medical Student Scholarships be awarded to Emily Ballantyne and Jeffrey Metz.

Carried.

Updates

CONFIRMED_____CHAIR

Dr. Derek Haruta Project

Dr. Haruta's project continues to develop.

The members were informed that Dr. Haruta was encountering some issues ironing out agreements with new graduate recruits. He was working through those details.

The members inquired about the building itself and if there were any delays in the planning process.

Mr. Smale stated that he would follow up with the building division to determine if the permit had been issued.

Nurse Practitioner Funding

The members were informed that Nurse Practitioner funding in the amount of \$15,000 per full time position had been approved by both St. Thomas and Elgin County Council's at their recent meetings.

Dr. Jonathon Carter and Daris Carter

Mr. Smale advised that St. Thomas Council had authorized the execution of agreements with both Dr. Carter and Daris Carter at a recent Council meeting. The agreements had been drafted and were in the process of being signed by all parties.

Francis Osih

This item will remain as unfinished business.

New Business

Medical Association – Negotiation Update

Dr. Scott stated that negotiations were ongoing between the OMA and the Province. Doctors had been working without a contract since 2012.

The Medical Association had a number of concerns with the Province's position including cuts to residency positions and income stabilization.

Dr. Scott provided the members with links to a number of recent articles voicing concerns on the future of physician care in Ontario including the fact that surveys were indicating the percentage of medical students planning to leave the Province after graduation was increasing significantly.

The members discussed the importance of retaining the "high needs" area designation for Elgin-St. Thomas.

Dr. Scott stated that Jeff Yurek, MPP had provided support for health care professionals in the legislature and that if municipalities or constituents wanted to express their views on the situation to the Province, they could do so through MPP Yurek's office.

Health Recruitment Action Plan

Ms. Fish reminded the members that an action plan outlining goals and priorities had been developed by the partnership in October of 2014. That plan was intended for 1 year and now needed updating. The outcomes of that action plan would be forwarded to the members for review in the near future.

Physician Recognition

The members discussed how to recognize retiring or recently retired physicians in the area.

An open house would be held in Port Stanley to recognize Dr. John Hofhuis. Central Elgin had nominated Dr. Hofhuis for an award.

Ms. Fish agreed to investigate opportunities for the partnership to recognize Dr. John Hofhuis and Dr. Anne Howe.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for December 15, 2015 at 3:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:23 pm.