

**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

DECEMBER 15, 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
Cheryl Fish, Health Recruiter
Wendell Graves, City Manager, City of St. Thomas
Mark McDonald, CAO, County of Elgin
Matt Smale, Corporate Administrative Clerk, City of St. Thomas

Guests

Dr. D. Haruta
Theresa Agnew, Nurse Practitioners Association of Ontario

Absent

Dr. K. Scott, Elgin Medical Association
Dr. N. Whitmore, St. Thomas-Elgin General Hospital

Presentation – Nurse Practitioners Association of Ontario

Ms. Agnew provided the members with a presentation on the role of nurse practitioners and the Nurse Practitioners Association. She added that the Province was expected to release a white paper in the next day or so that was expected to outline directions/strategies for the delivery of many health care services in the coming years

Ms. Agnew discussed the tasks a nurse practitioner could perform. She noted that there were certain medications that an NP could not prescribe at this time and that they worked either for or in consultation with a physician. They were authorized to communicate diagnosis and refer patients to specialists.

The members discussed funding for nurse practitioners and how the positions fit into a general practice model.

Ms. Agnew stated that this was dependent on the funding model of the general practice employing the nurse practitioner. A few things to note were that nurse practitioners were now able to roster their own patients and that a physician could not bill OHIP for services rendered by a nurse practitioner. Patients could not be rostered by both a nurse practitioner and physician simultaneously.

The members inquired about nurse practitioner led clinics and how they functioned.

Ms. Agnew advised that there were 25 nurse practitioner led clinics in Ontario with the Province allowing potentially one more at this time.

The clinics were composed of typically 3-4 NPs who could roster approximately 3-4 thousand patients in a team environment. The clinic would employ a supervising or consulting physician.

Physicians are paid on a stipend basis by the Province per nurse practitioner employed at the clinic.

Dr. Haruta inquired if St. Thomas would be eligible to apply for an NP led clinic.

Ms. Agnew stated that such clinics were generally approved for areas considered high needs. At this time the Province had indicated that it was willing to approve one more clinic and there were other communities interested.

The members inquired about hours of operation and after hours care.

Ms. Agnew advised that clinics were typically required to be open two evenings a week and a half day on weekends.

CONFIRMED_____CHAIR

The members inquired if other communities offered incentives to nurse practitioners and if they could work from satellite locations.

Ms. Agnew stated that some communities offered assistance in the form of facilities, equipment, etc. She added that nurse practitioners often performed site visits to facilities such as nursing and retirement homes and institutions.

Ms. Agnew advised that her association provided resources and training to nurse practitioner graduates and would be able to assist with a proposal if the municipality decided to apply for a clinic. She added that the association would also be able to assist with completing needs assessment documentation required to be submitted with any proposal.

The members thanked Ms. Agnew for her presentation and information.

Ms. Agnew departed at 3:30 p.m.

Dr. Haruta – Update and Project Status

Dr. Haruta provided an update on his building project. Foundations were currently going in, structure was slated to be installed in January with the building enclosed in spring 2016.

Dr. Haruta advised that recruitment was proving to be somewhat challenging. The hospital was not involved at this time with the establishment of a new FHO. One physician initially identified to be the lead was also no longer involved. Not all members of the local medical community were supportive of the project.

The members were informed that a new lead physician had been engaged and that the interior design plans were progressing but were not expected to be finalized until a new FHO was approved and physicians signed on.

Dr. Haruta inquired if any additional physician funding would be considered by the Partnership if requested. He would like to have the option to request an additional 2 positions bringing the total number to 8.

The members noted that funding for 6 positions has been considered for 2015 and 2016. An additional 2 positions could be requested for funding in 2017.

The members inquired about available space in the new building.

Dr. Haruta stated that if 8 physicians could be recruited, the building would be at capacity.

The members inquired about the rental rates at the facility.

Dr. Haruta stated that rates were comparable to market value.

The members inquired if Dr. Haruta would consider accepting a nurse practitioner led clinic in his building.

Dr. Haruta advised that it could be a consideration. He would consult with his FHO lead physician prior to accepting such a clinic.

The members thanked Dr. Haruta for his update.

Dr. Haruta departed at 4:15 p.m.

Minutes

Moved by: Coun. Wookey – Chair WcWilliam:

THAT: The minutes of the meeting held on October 27, 2015 be confirmed.

Carried.

Report of the Health Recruiter

Ms. Fish presented her report for the months of November and December.

Ms. Fish advised that arrangements had been finalized for the Home for the Holidays event on December 22nd. Mr. Jeff Metz, one of the scholarship recipients would be attending. 21 invitees have confirmed attendance.

Update – Town of Aylmer Health Recruitment

Mr. Graves advised that no formal request had yet been received from Aylmer Council to join the partnership.

The Chair advised that he had spoken with Mayor Currie and suggested that the town may benefit from increased partnerships with the East Elgin Family Health Team.

Unfinished Business

Francis Osih

Mr. Graves reminded the members that Mr. Osih had entered into an agreement with the partnership previously. The terms of that agreement had not yet been fulfilled and the agreement was slated to expire in 2016.

Mr. Graves would contact Mr. Osih regarding the status of the agreement and report back to the Committee at a future meeting.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for January 26, 2016 at 2:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:25 pm.