

**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

SEPTEMBER 13, 2016

7:30 a.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 (Depart 8:00 a.m.)
Cheryl Fish, Health Recruiter
Dr. K. Scott, Elgin Medical Association
Mark McDonald, CAO, County of Elgin
Wendell Graves, City Manager, City of St. Thomas
Matt Smale, Corporate Administrative Clerk, City of St. Thomas

Absent

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

Approval of Minutes - May 31, 2016

The members confirmed the minutes as presented.

Health Recruiter's Report

Ms. Fish provided the members with her report for the months of June, July and August.

The members were informed that according to Health Force Ontario. St. Thomas and Dutton/Dunwich would remain on the "high physician needs list" to be updated in November.

The members requested an update on the Sunset Medical Centre and the status of the agreement with Francis Osih.

Mr. Graves advised that Mr. Osih was in default of his obligations and the City Solicitor had been engaged to advise on the matter.

The members were informed that the Sunset Medical Centre space appeared to be vacant and that the facility was owned by Prespa Homes.

Update - Nurse Practitioner Led Clinic

Ms. Fish advised that a delegation from Elgin-St. Thomas had met with Health Minister Dr. Hoskins regarding the potential for a Nurse Practitioner led clinic in the Elgin-St. Thomas area. While no commitment had been made by the Province, Dr. Hoskins did direct his staff to investigate the matter further.

Theresa Agnew, Nurse Practitioner Association of Ontario has advised that the association's annual conference is scheduled for September 23rd and 24th and that further direction regarding Nurse Practitioner led clinics may be available following that conference.

Ms. Fish advised that she had emailed Phil Graham from the Southwest LHIN and was at this time waiting for a response.

Funding Request - Dr. Derek Haruta

Mr. Graves advised that Dr. Haruta had previously received funding approval for 6 physician positions. Individual agreements between the City and 6 physicians had been executed utilizing full funding for 3 positions and 1/3 funding for the other 3.

The members were in receipt of a request from Dr. Haruta for funding for recruitment of a Paediatric Rheumatologist.

The members discussed the fact that funding had been traditionally targeted to general practitioners rather than specialists. An Obstetrician had been funded in the past due to an urgent need in the community.

Dr. Scott agreed to speak with the head of paediatric medicine at the hospital to determine if there was an urgent need at this time.

CONFIRMED_____CHAIR

The members agreed to remain focused on primary care at this time and decline the request. The request could be revisited if an urgent need for this specialization was demonstrated.

Other Business

New Physician Orientation

Ms. Fish inquired if an orientation session for new physicians would be beneficial.

The members agreed that such a session could be offered and that the Elgin Medical Association may wish to partner in such a venture.

Health Recruitment Scholarships

Mr. Graves advised that the application for the 2016 Health Recruitment Scholarship program would be amended and forwarded to Ms. Fish and the County.

“Practice Ready Assessment” - Pilot Program

Ms. Fish advised that Health Force Ontario was considering a pilot program whereby primary care physicians trained in other nations would receive supervision from a local physician at the start of their practice in Canada.

Dr. Scott advised that she had supervised students in the past and that the time commitment of the supervising physician could be considerable.

Details of the pilot program at this time were still limited.

Unfinished Business

Francis Osih

This item was addressed earlier in the agenda.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for October 18, 2016 at 7:30 a.m.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 a.m.