

Executive Director's Report April 2011

Policies and Procedures

The following policies and procedures were recently approved by the Senior Leadership Team:

HR 2-6 Lieu and Overtime - Effective April 1, 2011 members of the Senior Leadership Team shall not be able to accumulate overtime. To compensate for extra time worked each member of SLT shall be granted one week per-annum (35 hours) of lieu time, pro-rated to their FTE. There is no carryover to the next fiscal year.

HR 3-16 Tuition Assistance - The policy is revised to reflect the change in amount allowed for tuition from \$1000 to \$500 on a first come first serve basis based on eligible funding. Also, if training is during the day and staff are using the 70 hours training time, once used up, staff are to use their entitlements to make up the time.

FIN-5F Hospitality and Meeting Expenses – moved from Administration to Finance as well as increased meeting expense amounts for lunches and dinners.

HR 1-20 Personal Vehicle Use – new policy clearly defining use of personal vehicles for work related duties.

COR-8A Transportation Assistance Policy – the policy is revised to reflect the change in centralizing the distribution of client use of taxi chits to main reception.

Organizational Review

A decision has been made to maintain the counsellors within the Mental Health and Addictions Department area, instead of moving them into Primary Health Care as originally planned. This will facilitate their ongoing supervision by the MH&A manager. They will still be assigned to a pod, however, and offer counselling support to clients of their respective pods.

On April 21, the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) held a very successful management retreat. The focus of the retreat was to discuss leading practices in management and leadership applying it to the SLT.

Harm Reduction Program

We held a focus group for peers on March 29th and will be offering a number of workshops for them in response to their feedback. Ideas include a community kitchen with our dietitian Krystal Taylor and a budgeting session with the home management counselor Kimberly Stoddard. Peers will also be helping to maintain the planters on the patio.

The final evaluation of the Safer Inhalation Program, conducted by the University of Ottawa in 2009, has been officially released by the AIDS Bureau. The findings will be disseminated at a presentation to the partner agencies and members of the Harm Reduction Joint Action Team in June. As well, we will be co sponsoring a day long community forum on harm reduction with the University of Ottawa to be held on World AIDS day on December 1, 2011.

A presentation on the evaluation will be made to the board in the fall.

Rochester Heights Community House

The Community House Coalition is working with the Ottawa Police, Ottawa Community Housing, and the Ottawa South United soccer club to organize an annual summer soccer program and tournament for the children and youth who live in OCH communities. This program is made possible by funding from the Ottawa Community Foundation.

Families in Rochester Heights went on a fieldtrip to the wave pool at the Ray Friel Recreation Centre earlier this month. This fieldtrip provided an important opportunity for residents to get to know their neighbours and enjoy a fun afternoon at the pool together.

Community Development Framework

The process of expanding the CDF in West Centretown has begun. For 'Phase II' of the CDF in this West Centretown, we will be focusing on the area of Willow St. to Rochester St. and Bell St. to Raymond. Our Outreach plan has been established and includes door-to-door outreach introducing ourselves, informing residents of SWCHC and the CDF, and inviting residents to a BBQ celebration with the Rochester Heights community.

Federal Election

The Community Developers Network as well as the Coalition to Move Ottawa Forward has decided to focus on the youth vote for this year's election. As such, CMOF has developed edgy rave cards geared towards youth ages 18-35, these cards are being disseminated throughout the community and local partners are being encouraged to encourage youth to vote. In addition, SWCHC has a display in the front lobby with information on all-candidates debates and how to vote. Elections Canada will be setting up an information Kiosk on Wednesday April 27, 2011 from 9-3pm, voting information will be provided in multiple languages.

Hintonburg Hub Initiative

The Hintonburg Hub partners are still waiting to hear back from the Salvation Army lawyers regarding questions we had about the recent counter-offer received from the Salvation Army. The information we receive will determine the content of our next counter-offer.

Hintonburg Hub Outreach in March and April focused on informing residents, community agencies, local business, and local officials about the Hintonburg Hub initiative and the Community Forum that took place on April 4, 2011. About 150 people packed the Hintonburg Community Centre on the evening of April 4th to hear the proposed plan to build a hub of affordable housing, medical and social services on the current site of the Salvation Army Bethany Hope Centre. Local residents were enthusiastic to see not just the expansion of health services in their community but a central location for many other social services and community space.

Physical Activity – Health Promotion Program

Staff member Patrick Beriault was a guest panelist at the – Governance, Policy and Grant Writing workshops organized by OCISO to transfer knowledge and best practice recommendations for grassroots organizations. We have initiated a new intergenerational physical activity program with our McNabb program play group with a focus on gross motor skills. Susan Xu and Patrick Beriault are working collaboratively to deliver this new program.

Queensway Preschool Program Restructuring

The Queensway Preschool Program will become a Full Day Program effective July 1, 2011. The new hours of operation will be 8:15-4:45p.m. We have been advised that our rent at Parkdale United Church will increase in Jan. 2011 by \$4800.00, making our annual rental costs \$27,600 for the Queensway Preschool.

Community Health Week 2011

SWCHC will be hosting several community open houses including a Dental Screening Clinic on Wednesday from 1-3pm, get your teeth checked by Ottawa Public Health Dental Hygienists and receive a free toothbrush and floss. As well, the Physical Activity Room will also be hosting an open house 1-3 pm on Wednesday; find out what great programs we offer and how easy it is to get active no matter what your age or fitness level. On Thursday our awesome nurses will be offering blood pressure and glucose level screening to anyone who wants it as well as health information . Laurie Taylor will also be showcasing her COPD program and answering questions on lung health. On Friday April 29th SWCHC will be on hand at Western Ottawa CRC for the official community health day celebration and media event.

Volunteer Week 2011

SWCHC sent out thanks and recognition to all registered volunteers and Board members for National Volunteer Week April 11-15th. Our volunteer program has grown to 95 registered volunteers and interest continues to grow! We are in the process of preparing a volunteer satisfaction survey that should be completed this summer.

2011 AGM Planning

The PRRD committee is well into planning this year's AGM to be held in our back parking lot on June 15th. We will welcome 50 international community health workers from around the world as well as welcoming our new neighbours at Cornerstone.

Submitted by: Jack McCarthy
April 27, 2011