

Executive Director Report

January 2010

Rochester Heights Community House

The Community House received a generous donation of a guitar from Community Police Officer Tim Senack and will now be offering guitar lessons on Monday afternoons.

There was a successful Rochester Heights holiday party held at Somerset West Community Health Centre in December. There were over 80 residents in attendance and the highlights included a full Christmas dinner, presents for the kids, and a drama performance by the Rochester Heights drama class.

Yet Keen Seniors Centre

We were pleased to receive a special grant in the amount of \$11,000 from the Ministry of Health for equipment (computers, photocopier, office supplies) at Yet Keen Seniors Centre.

New Harm Reduction Program “Papalooza”

A monthly drop-in for women who use drugs and/or are in the sex trade starts on January 26th and will run on the last Tuesday of every month. Services offered include pap tests, point of care testing and other health care. Pizza and snacks will be available.

Community Development

As previously reported, the City of Ottawa’s Community Development Framework (CDF) is currently being implemented in Rochester Heights. Our Community Action Planning Forum took place in early December with facilitated discussions among residents on the main themes and issues that came out of the needs assessment process over the summer and fall. Children and youth also participated in their own action planning exercises. Residents and partners are meeting in late January to finalize and then implement the action plan.

A team of Carleton social work students are working with us on a community-based research project investigating food insecurity among seniors in the area to determine what kinds of supports they need to access affordable and nutritious food.

2009 Family Physician of the Year

Big thanks to the Board, staff and community members who attended the celebration recognizing Dona Bowers as the Family Physician of the Year 2009 by the Ontario College of Family Physicians. It was a grand party!

Canadian Institute of Health Research (CIHR)

At a CIHR research in Toronto on January 18th and 19th, there were many presentations which highlighted the comprehensiveness of the Community Health Centre model. Dona Bowers was part of a panel presentation on CHCs. The comparison of primary care models research with Laura Muldoon as a lead researcher on this study was referenced by many of the presenters as well.

Christmas Bags

Over 100 Christmas sacks were prepared and distributed by staff for individuals living in rooming houses in our area. The bags were filled to the brim with toiletries, treats, clothing items etc. Most of these individuals had no other Christmas gifts and were delighted.

Physician Assistant (PA) and Demonstration Project

As the physician assistant and demonstration project is nearing the end of its second year, there are several evaluation efforts as to its impact and effectiveness. Angie Cassell and Dona Bowers have been invited to be part of an orientation team describing the role of PAs to Family Health Teams across the province.

Flu Immunization Program

To date, staff has administered 777 H1N1 Vaccine doses and 1417 seasonal flu doses.

McMaster Research Project

ED SWCHC is a decision making lead on a research project examining best practice in collaboration between primary care and public health. A Building Synergies Symposium occurred last week in Hamilton which brought together researchers, public health officials and primary care experts from Ontario, Nova Scotia and British Columbia to share stories, and research methodological approaches on this subject.

HINI Report

Health Systems researcher Doug Angus from the University of Ottawa in February will be meeting with staff from all the CHCs that were flu assessments centres (FACs) in November 2009 to prepare a lessons learned document.

Roy Romanow Visit

Former Saskatchewan Premier and Royal Commissioner Roy Romanow visited SWCHC today (January 27, 2010) and was interviewed by a film crew from the Association of Ontario Health Centres (AOHC) who are preparing a film promoting CHCs. SWCHC served as a host location for the interview with Mr Romanow.

Staff Turnover

Permanent staff turnover for 2008 was 11.6% and for 2009 was 4.8%

Submitted by: Jack McCarthy
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