

Executive Director's Report May 2010

African and Caribbean HIV Prevention Program

With the support of Eugene Williams, Pascale Hough, Anonymous HIV Testing Coordinator and Irene Mlambo HIV/AIDS Prevention worker are planning a forum to educate staff, board members, and other CHC's on non disclosure of HIV status and criminalizaion. This will prepare us to make a decision on where we stand on this important issue. We will be working with the HIV/AIDS Legal Clinic of Ontario (HALCO) who is willing to lead a seminar for us.

Anonymous HIV Testing

Pascale Hough will begin a new partnership this summer with the Youth Services Bureau at the Youth clinic. Currently only Point of Care testing is available there 1 day per week. The hope is to offer both anonymous and POC testing an additional day each week.

Rochester Heights (RH)

The RH Community House received \$7600 from the Community Foundation for community initiatives in the neighbourhood along with \$5000 from Crime Prevention Ottawa for youth to work with an artist over the summer to create a community mural.

Community Development

As part of the Community Development Framework, several community members and partners have come together to work towards replacing the play structure in Rochester Heights. The community was successful in receiving a grant for **Let Them be Kids** which will pay for half of the play structure. Other CDF initiatives include the start of a Neighbourhood Watch in Rochester Heights and a partnership with Plant Pool Association to offer free mini sports camps and provide free swimming passes to children and youth.

Over 20 people attended last month's Beginner Organic Vegetable Gardening Workshop we hosted. We are working with the Cambridge St Public School on their Family Fun Night on June 9.

Children and Youth

Queensway Preschool is set to come under SWCHC effective July 1st. We must apply for a licence under MCYS and that is underway. More details to follow.

The Early Childhood Development Worker has been hired to serve French speaking clients in our catchment- Kimberley Vandermeer is the successful candidate.

Harm Reduction Team

The article series in the Citizen on the use of crack cocaine in the streets of Ottawa is expected to run beginning May 31st. SWCHC's harm reduction program will be featured.

Social Services

The Glebe Long Term Care Centre has approached SWCHC with a request to have Chinese Mental Health Counselor Peter Lo provide counseling in Mandarin and Cantonese at their centre to residents of the Asian floor and/or family members. We will be developing a letter of understanding outlining mutual expectations and pilot this for a year.

Building Energy Audit

EnviroCentre was contracted to complete an energy audit of SWCHC. In short 55 Eccles is in good shape regarding energy efficiency. Nonetheless, the report completed based on recent billing, indicates that our gas costs each year are about \$6,600 and electricity \$42,250. To reduce costs we will be changing light fixtures at a cost of about \$9,500. The payback period for this particular investment is 2.4 years. Other "green energy" solutions will be investigated as well.

Bell Street Fire

On May 21, 6 people were left homeless after a late night fire at a two-story duplex on Bell St near Somerset. Community Developer Emilie Hayes, has been in touch with Diane Holmes's office, the Canadian Red Cross (first responder) and the Dalhousie Community Association to determine if there is any role for SWCHC to support the residents who were displaced

Bronson Centre

\$250.00 from the Special Project Fund (SPF) has been given to the Bronson Centre to support their annual golf tournament.

Health Services Retreat

The Health Services Staff held a 2-day staff retreat on May 6 & 7. The focus of the retreat was on maximizing the scopes of practice of all health services staff in order to allow for enhancements to Primary Care and improved access. The retreat culminated in several excellent ideas for expanding roles and processes. New and exciting times lie ahead in Health Services.

HIV Testing Coordinator

Pascale Hough, Anonymous HIV Testing Coordinator, recently became a member of the HS Team. Pascale works very closely with the Nurse Practitioners in the Walk-In Clinic so this new assignment is very appropriate.

Policies

The Senior Leadership Team (SLT) approved the following policies:

- IT -01 Policy and Procedure which covers all IT requirements for the Centre.
- FIN-5B Travel Expense Policy revised to add a monthly cap on mileage expenses.

Submitted by Jack McCarthy
May 26, 2010