

Executive Director Report October 2009

Policies

The following policies were approved at SLT:

- COR-2E Privacy Policy on the Collection, Use and Disclosure of Personal Information
- HLS-12J Medical Directive: Venipuncture for HIV Testing
- HLS-12L Medical Directive for Physican Assistants
- HR 3-11 Sick Pay benefits
- HR 1-X Notification of Absence
- COR-8L Cultural Interpreter(CI) Recruitment and Orientation

- FIN-5B travel expenses policy has been reviewed by the Finance and Audit committee

Community Development Framework

The Community Development Framework (CDF) is underway in Rochester Heights. A community consultation is complete and residents will next be engaging in an action planning process. The Somerset West Resource Committee for the CDF will be ready to support this action plan later this fall and into 2010. We are pleased that the Community Foundation of Ottawa donated \$17,000 to assist with this process. The funds will allow us to hire additional staff to work with the Rochester Heights and Lebreton communities.

Student Research

A group of Carleton MSW students will be engaging in a community-based research project to determine how seniors have coped since the closure of the Loeb and what kinds of programs and services they feel would support them in accessing healthy and affordable food. An inventory of food stores in the area will also be compiled to assist residents in identifying where they can access healthy food in the neighbourhood.

Anonymous HIV Testing

Anonymous Testing is now expanding to the Young Men's Shelter through Youth Services Bureau and to Algonquin College. These are in addition to our current sites which include GayZoneGaie, St. Luke's Lunch Club, Salvation Army and the University of Ottawa.

Harm Reduction

The Harm Reduction team is planning activities for World AIDS Day in December. These will include a lunch and learn for staff and the launch of the Needle Exchange Safer Inhalation (NESI) Resource Room.

Rochester Heights Community House

There are two new initiatives at the Rochester Heights Community House that are aimed at helping to alleviate some of the food security pressures. We are pleased to offer a grocery van to drive residents to and from Food Basics every Monday afternoon. Thanks to Gaston Nicholas from the Canadian Human Rights Office, loaves of bread are now being delivered to the Community House every week for residents.

A "Friends of Rochester Heights" group has been set up by Councillor Diane Holmes. The goal of the group is to bring together residents from the broader Dalhousie Community with leaders from the Rochester Heights Community to support and fundraise for the Community House as well as to strengthen the linkages between the two groups.

Josmi Bansal has been hired to work at the Community House two days a week as a Multicultural Outreach Worker. This position is funded by a one year grant from the United Way/Centraide Ottawa. Over the past six weeks, Josmi has started a drop-in at the Community House for immigrants and refugees and is working on setting up ESL classes.

Pandemic Planning

There have been incredible resources put into the pandemic planning regarding H1N1 virus. Somerset West, along with our other CHC colleagues, is readying to become Flu Assessment Centre should the incidents of influenza like illness (ILI) warrant the establishment of such centres. The target patients for these Flu Assessment Centres would be patients without a primary care provider or those whose primary care provider is not available. Currently, the emergency departments are being inundated and are in overload, albeit not necessarily with ILI. Jack, Merry, Dona have been meeting several times weekly in order to collaborate with Ottawa Public Health, the hospitals, and other community based service providers to insure that this roll out is smooth. The details around H1N1, its treatment, and the newly released vaccine change weekly and thereby so do the plans at SWCHC. Should we be declared a Flu Assessment Centre, many of the staff will be redeployed to staff these clinics mainly out of the walk-in clinic.

Seasonal Flu Vaccine

We have had 2 flu clinics for the regular seasonal flu vaccine (not H1N1) for our seniors. The attendance has been amazing with over 180 vaccines given the first afternoon and 60 the second afternoon. Currently the only people being targeted are seniors. Next, the H1N1 vaccine will be offered mainly by Ottawa Public Health in designated community centres. The closest to us is the Tom Brown Arena. Priority populations for the vaccine will be children 6 months to 5 years, pregnant women, people with underlying chronic conditions, and health care workers. Then it will be opened up to the more general public. After this distribution of the H1N1 vaccine, there will be further distribution of the regular seasonal flu vaccine available, probably in January.

Grant Award

We are the successful recipient of a healthy communities fund from the Ministry of Health Promotion for \$43,795. The grant is awarded to provide individual assessment and fitness plans, smoking cessation program, structured physical activities, and a nutrition and cooking program for 130-160 low income older adults and seniors. This grant proposal was a collaborative effort with our fitness health promoter and dietitian.

Academic

One of our dietitians, Bonnie Baxter, has recently qualified as a Lactation Consultant by the International Lactation Consultation Association. This is a rigorous program which requires academic expertise and very practical applications for breast feeding moms. Diana Warfield, our first Lactation Consultant, has been playing a key role as her mentor.

OTN (Ontario Telemedicine Network)

SWCHC is now connected with the Ontario Telemedicine Network and can participate in video conferences, educational sessions, rounds, individual client consultations, and planning sessions with other OTN users across the province. We have acquired 3 units, thanks to the LHIN. This gives us amazing capacity to access resources that are geographically distant.

Oral Health Initiative

Discussions are starting with Ottawa Public Health to partner with them in offering a dental screening program for children in need of oral health treatment. This program would be offered on site. More details to come!

Submitted by: Jack McCarthy
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