

## **Executive Director Report September 2009**

### **Policies**

The following Health Services policy was approved:

HLS-12K Medical Directive: Dispensing Zyban for Stop Study

### **NESI Resource Room**

The NESI (**N**eedle **E**xchange **S**afe **I**nhalation) Resource Room is now open every afternoon from 1-4. The clients can drop in, have a cup of coffee, chat with an outreach worker, obtain supplies and access resources. We have completed 3 focus groups with clients to find out what they want this room to offer and have received great feedback. We will soon be implementing some specific programming in the room as well as services such as HIV Point of Care testing.

### **Yet Keen Seniors Day Centre**

After many months of planning, the Yet Keen Seniors Day Centre will become a program of Somerset West CHC effective October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009.

Yet Keen and Somerset West CHC have a long history of collaborating to serve the Chinese community. After the integration, Yet Keen will remain in the same location at the Bronson Centre. Somerset West CHC is committed to ensuring that Chinese speaking seniors continue to receive high quality services through the Yet Keen Seniors' Day Centre. A merger and dissolution agreement outlines the terms and conditions of this voluntary merger.

Anne Christie-Teeter will supervise the program under the Social Services team. Anna Yip will assume the Program Administrator's role..

### **Crisis Intake Program**

Roman Belete, the Centre's practical assistance worker, is now available at the Rochester Heights Community House twice a month to offer information, referral and support to individuals in that community.

### **Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) proposal**

A proposal, entitled "Mental Health Literacy: A Community Action Plan" was submitted in July, requesting \$196,675 to develop curriculum and training programs for newcomer individuals and families with a severe and persistent mental illness. Training would include basic english as a second language (ESL)

training and modules in mental health literacy. The grant included 3 staff and operating funds to develop the training materials. We expect to hear from PHAC by the end of September.

### **Youth Leadership Program**

This summer a very successful Youth Leadership program with two 4 week intakes of 10 youth (13-18yrs) occurred. They participated in team building, self esteem, job readiness, First Aid/CPR, community development and physical fitness activities. Both groups had a 1 week volunteer placement within the summer day camp. They took on the role of Community Programmer facilitating group activities and organizing a carnival for the children of Rochester Heights. Youth earned community service towards the 40 hours of community service required by high schools.

### **Summer Day Camp**

The summer day camp provided 43, 6 to 12 year old youth with a high quality program which ran Monday through Friday in Rochester Heights.

Our partnership with the Children's Village allowed us to provide four 2 week sessions throughout the summer for 18 children at Laroche Park.

### **New Fall Children and Youth Programs**

A francophone after school program is underway at École élémentaire catholique Saint-François d'Assise, in Hintonburg. The program can accommodate 20 children 6 to 12 years old.

Thanks to United Way funding, children and youth at the Forward Avenue Shelter will gain experience preparing healthy lunches. The "Kids in the Kitchen" program will ensure kids will have a healthy lunch to bring to school everyday.

A new "Youth Drop-In" out of Hintonburg Community Centre will be held every Tuesday night.

A Children and Youth counselor position will be added to the staff in order to provide supportive youth groups and counseling.

An after- school program at St. Anthony's elementary school is being offered in partnership with the YMCA-YWCA.

### **Pandemic Planning**

Several of the staff have been very engaged in planning for the possible Pandemic of H1N1. There have been collaborative efforts with several

committees involving Public Health, The Ottawa Hospital, Primary Care Physicians, and our CHC colleagues. The city of Ottawa Public Health has developed a pandemic plan, and SWCHC has developed a site specific version for pandemic planning. Should the Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Isra Levy declare a pandemic, Somerset West CHC along with the other CHCs in the city will be designated as Flu Assessment Centres. This means that those citizens without a family physician or whose family physician is not currently available will come to these sites for an assessment of the flu like symptoms. We will be dispensing Tamiflu, an antiviral medication, which should be started within 48 hours of the onset of symptoms.

Needless to say, should we be declared a Flu Assessment Centre, there will a drastic change in business at Somerset West. The staff will be redeployed to new duties in order to accommodate the increase in individuals accessing our assessment services. This initiative in planning has required incredible resources (both staff time and material resources such as gowns, masks, gloves etc) and has been a distraction from our usual activities.

### **Ontario Telehealth Network**

OTN (the Ontario Telehealth Network) has been installed here on site. The initial training will be on September 24<sup>th</sup>. This will allow staff to be involved in educational opportunities, consultations, planning sessions with others remote from our location. This will be live stream bilateral video networking so that all parties will be aware of what is happening at the other site. As well, there is potential for having client consultations with medical consultants at another site. The funds for the OTN equipment were made available from end of year funding from the LHIN.

### **Physiotherapy**

The Ottawa Hospital has informed us that physiotherapy services will no longer be able to be provided on site. The program which seconded a physiotherapist from their in-hospital services based out of the Riverside, began more than 10 years ago as a response to direct lobbying for publicly funded physiotherapy for our clientele. However, the physiotherapy time at our centre (and Carlington, and Centretown) has gradually been reduced to only 1 day a week.

The hospital has allowed us to continue to refer our clients to their out patients services at the Riverside hospital. The date for this transition will be December 18, 2009.

Prepared by J McCarthy  
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