

## **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT JANUARY 2012**

### **Policies and Procedures**

In preparation for accreditation next year, the SLT is systematically reviewing and updating all Human Resource (HR) policies to ensure that these policies are compliant with any new legislation.

### **Support to the St. Luke's Lunch Club**

\$300 from the Special Projects Fund was donated to St. Luke's lunch club for their Thanksgiving Dinner and another \$500 for their Christmas lunch. Both of these events are supported on an annual basis, and are attended by many unstably housed individuals and families on low income. Staff of SWCHC provides ongoing support to St Luke's on a regular weekly basis.

### **Carleton Tavern Christmas Day Dinner**

\$300 from the Special Projects Fund was donated to the Carleton Tavern Christmas dinner. More than 150 volunteers, 30 businesses, and several organizations including SWCHC donated food, money and gifts to help out. 850 meals were served. Kudos are in order to the Hintonburg Economic Development Committee for all of their hard work.

### **Nightingale on Demand (NOD)**

Progress continues to be made in planning for Nightingale on Demand, or what will quickly become known as "NOD". This is the product to replace Purkinje for all CHCs in Ontario, and is the largest Electronic Medical Record contract in Canada to date. Somerset West CHC is one of the first adopters of this product. SWCHC was selected as an early site in large part because of current EMR adoption; meaning, we are already nearly paperless. Clinicians and counsellors deserve recognition for positive attitudes and cooperation during these times of change.

### **Human Resource Information System (HRIS)**

Efforts to identify and procure a consistent HRIS continue. Our hope is that by spring we have selected a vendor and begin planning the implementation of this system. This will mainly benefit managers by providing easier access to staff information and high quality reports, but staff as well, who will have a self-serve web-portal to complete time sheets, request time off, and review leave balances. The advantage to HR is that less time will be spent on data management, and more time can be diverted to activities that add more value to recruitment, training and retention.

### **Holiday Celebration**

The Resource Development Manger participated in several holiday celebrations with both SWCHC and other partner agencies. Food and good cheer were in abundance this year as SWCHC welcomed the community, Board and VIPs to a holiday celebration on December 14<sup>th</sup>.

## **40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Logo**

The new SWCHC logo has been finalized. The new logo will be used for 2012 and recognizes our 40 years of community and health services to our community. To see the new logo, log on to the SWCHC website.

## **Funding Proposal to the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC)**

Thanks to staff members Jennifer Simpson and Jane Karago for their fantastic work on the submission of a funding proposal to the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC). If successful this project will enhance our HIV prevention services to the African and Caribbean communities.

## **SWCHC Donors**

SWCHC finally had the privilege of meeting one of our largest donors! Mr. David Maclaren and his wife Anne came in and toured the Centre and met with the Resource Development Manager and the Executive Director. The Maclarens have donated \$5,000 a year to SWCHC for the last three years.

## **Yet Keen Seniors' Day Centre New Year's Fundraising Gala**

Much of January was consumed with planning the Yet Keen Seniors' Day Centre, New Years Fundraising Gala held on January 19<sup>th</sup>. The gala turned out to be a huge success as tickets were sold out (280) and \$18,000 was raised to support the Yet Keen Outreach Program. The event was covered by both CBC and the Ottawa Citizen. We were very pleased that Somerset ward City Counselor Diane Holmes was in attendance. Mike Bell and Grace Xin did a fantastic job as the MCs for the evening and kept the crowd in stitches in both English and Chinese.

## **Next Fundraiser**

The PRRD committee is hard at work looking at the planning of our next event tentatively scheduled for March 31, 2012...get your dancing shoes on!

## **Harm Reduction Team**

Cathi Savage, who has been an outreach worker with SWCHC for 12 years, is resigning effective February 3. She has accepted a position with the new intensive case management program at Sandy Hill CHC. Cathi has been a great asset to our harm reduction program over the years, and she will be missed. Allison Lavigne, outreach worker, has begun her maternity leave. Both positions will be posted this week.

## **Counselling Team**

Along with 4 other CHCs we are undertaking a 6 month pilot of the electronic tool- My Outcomes. Bonnie Stephanson will be the participating counsellor from SWCHC for the pilot. The tool will enable counsellors to track progress in counseling interventions.

## **Physical Activity – Health Promotion**

The Physical Activity Health Promotion program is currently experiencing an increase in numbers in the drop in program and we are resuming physical activity group programming in multiple sites across our catchment including 4 seniors buildings (1041 Wellington, 100 Empress and 280 Rochester/865 Gladstone). We are currently exploring working with a volunteer who is a running instructor to help co-lead a “learn to run” program during the spring season in 2012. Our Physical Activity Health Promoter will be visiting with staff at Corner Stone on January 19th to help promote physical activity services for Corner Stone clients. In addition, our Health Promoter has been invited to participate in a discussion panel at the University of Ottawa School Of Human Kinetics on February 2, 2012 to discuss the role of a Kinesiologist in an interprofessional care setting. Finally, we have agreed to work with Centretown CHC in their Dundonald Park Program Initiative to increase the use and program quality of this local park. CCHC recently received funding from the City of Ottawa to develop programming in this park.

## **Rochester Heights Community House**

A volunteer from the community has been working with the St. Anthony’s soccer club on Preston Street to create an after school soccer program at Rochester Heights! She has collected donations from private companies to cover the cost of gym fees and equipment and the soccer club has donated their coach to help teach children soccer skills. This program will be running from January 19th until March 29th 2012 from 6pm to 8pm at the Adult High School.

We have successfully started our after school programming on Tuesdays and Fridays beginning January 17th 2012 until the end of June! We will have programming from 4pm to 6pm that includes a healthy snack and physical activity at the Adult High School gym. This program is through the Social Rec Connectors Project through Christie Lake Kids, Trillium Foundation, United Way and the Boys and Girls Club.

Drama classes have started at the community house on January 12th 2012 and will run until March 22nd 2012 for kids ages 10-14 years old. We are grateful that the Plant Pool has provided the space for free and to the Ottawa School of Speech and Drama. We have received \$2500 from Alterna Savings as a grant to help with the cost of after school program supplies! A cheque presentation will be happening in the coming weeks once the date has been finalized.

## **Youth Community Development**

The youth at the Laroche Park Drop-In have been working on a project idea to submit for a United Way Youth Action Grant. Their goal is to increase community youth’s access to musical instruments and music instruction. This project would fund the purchasing of musical instruments, which would be incorporated in the youth drop-in. This youth group is being encouraged to participate in the Laroche Park Youth Advisory, which will be established soon. The Youth Advisory will be assisting with the preparation of the Community Action Planning event, taking place on February 15, 2012. As part of this Action Planning, youth will be invited to come together to share their perspective of what priorities they would like to see incorporated into the Community Action plan. A few Youth Advisors will be taking a leadership role, and assisting with the facilitation of this event.

## **Queensway and Nanny Goat Preschool**

Queensway and Nanny Goat Preschool are at full capacity at this time. At Nanny Goat Preschool, we have 10 toddler aged children who participate in our morning program and 16 children in our afternoon program. At Queensway Preschool, we have 16 toddler aged children who are enrolled in our full day program. Children from families of the Family Shelter and referred families from the Children's Aid Society get priority status. We currently have a waiting list of one year for children of families from the general population who access our Preschool Program. We currently have eight children in our program who are residents of the City of Ottawa Family Shelter and six children from the shelter on a waiting list.

We are expecting a 3.2 % increase in our City budget for these programs in 2012. Our City of Ottawa Licensing visit will occur this month at both sites.

## **HIV Prevention for African/Caribbean Community**

During the AIDS Awareness Week (Nov 28 & 29) SWCHC in partnership with AIDS Committee of Ottawa (ACO), Ottawa Public Health (OPH), Lowertown Community Resource Centre, and a local Radio Station CHUO FM 89.1 (Jambo Ottawa morning radio) organized a 2 day Symposium on African & Caribbean Health in Ottawa. The theme of the Symposium was Creating and Maintaining Effective Partnerships. Over 55 people who work directly with African and Caribbean people attended. It was the first time such a group of service providers had come together. We saw a marked need for education on HIV and HIV related issues.

We worked with the Ottawa African, Caribbean & Black Community Prevention Work Group to commemorate World AIDS Day by screening the documentary "The Woman I Have Become" at Carleton University, School of African Studies. The event was well attended in spite of it being exam period at the University. We held a panel discussion about the video and about HIV and barriers to services. The discussion was very lively and people stayed much longer than expected. Ottawa Public Health shared some useful epidemiological information about the HIV rates in these communities.

## **One Blood HIV Prevention Documentary Video: Interagency Coalition on AIDS and Development Project**

We are currently working on the last stages of the project. This final phase includes screening of the HIV Prevention video and submission of a final report in mid February 2012. There were several screenings that took place in Toronto at various HIV/AIDS agencies and some Community Health Centres. In addition, three of our youth participants involved in the video production travelled to Toronto and participated in the screening activities.

Since November 2011 to date, SWCHC has organized and hosted six screenings to a total audience of about 130 people. The target group for these screening sessions is service providers and youth.

## **Advocacy Award**

We are very proud of our Primary Health Care Manager, Merry Cardinal, who was chosen by Citizens' Advocacy to receive this year's Advocacy Award in their annual "Celebration of People". This was in particular recognition of her leadership and support of our volunteer, Malinda, who is developmentally challenged. Merry approached the Down Syndrome Association in 2010 for their help in starting a Work to Learn program here at SWCHC.

## **Registered Nurses Association of Ontario (RNAO)**

Merry Cardinal has also been selected to serve on the provincial Primary Care Family Practice Nursing Task force of (RNAO). RNAO is establishing this task force to look at the roles of RNs and RPNs in primary care settings and asked for representation from a CHC. The group is particularly interested in nurses working to full scope of practice. This is a very exciting opportunity. Her breadth of knowledge of nursing practice in the community, in clinical settings and in primary care will certainly inform this task force.

## **Primary Care Outreach (PCO)**

Primary Care Outreach for Seniors (PCO) is now underway. This program is now in place in 5 CHCs in Ottawa. Seniors from our catchment area who are at particular risk can be referred to our PCO outreach nurses (Ginette Drouin and Tam Tran) and health outreach worker (Chantal Layoun). They will provide in-home assessments and connections to other health and social services. There will be a media launch in April outlining efforts to support at risk seniors in their homes avoiding potential emergency visits and hospitalizations.

## **Lung Health Program**

Our expanded Lung Health Program which includes COPD screening, diagnosis, treatment and rehabilitation has begun this month as well. There is a robust evaluation program design with a new database to capture these services delivered across the 8 CHC's. This program has added in 1.4 respiratory educators to the lung health complement. This LHIN funded program fits perfectly with our strategic plan and commitment to chronic disease prevention and management.

## **Chronic Disease Prevention Presentation**

Of interest, our CDPM Coordinator, Krystal Taylor, has been invited to present a poster at the *Chronic Disease Prevention Alliance of Canada's Annual Conference: Integrated Prevention that Works*. Apparently our community based program has caught their attention as an innovative program. A great venue to showcase our CDPM approaches.

Submitted By: Jack McCarthy  
January 25, 2012