

Executive Director Report December 2009

Community Development

The Community Development Framework (CDF) is being implemented in Rochester Heights. A needs assessment identified the main issues experienced by residents as well as what they consider the assets and strengths in the neighbourhood. Community action planning has begun and will wrap up early in the New Year. We have begun our outreach in Lebreton Flats which is our next neighbourhood. We will launch the CDF there in the summer of 2010.

The City's Hintonburg Mechanicsville Neighbourhood Planning Initiative has wrapped up. The Plan will go to Committee and Council in February 2010. Once approved, the City will work closely with the Hintonburg Community Association and other partners to move forward on the Plan's recommendations.

Yet Keen Seniors Program

Interviews have been completed and hiring finalized for 2 positions - the Administrative Assistant and the Cooking Club Facilitator.

We will be temporarily suspending the outreach program to give us some time to better understand what the needs are and likely reorganize the program before posting the Outreach Worker's position.

A team of volunteers through the United Way Community Action Day painted the Yet Keen space on December 9.

We are awaiting news on grants submitted to the Ministry of Health and New Horizons for seniors (total requested \$25,000.00) that would be used to upgrade the furniture and computer equipment for the seniors.

Cornerstone Capital Project

On December 15 Cornerstone publicly announced their capital project in the Board room of SWCHC. The event was very well attended with political representatives from all levels of government present. 42 units of housing for women (20 units will be for seniors) will be built in a 4 story complex at the old Loeb site across the street. Demolition of the existing building will likely start in April 2010, with construction following shortly thereafter. SWCHC looks forward to a partnership with Cornerstone.

South Nepean Community Health Centre

This new satellite CHC was launched in a public ceremony on December 11, 2009. Municipal Affairs and Housing Minister Jim Watson at the event praised the efforts of Pinecrest Queensway CHC and the Nepean Rideau, Osgoode Community Resource Centre (NROC) in working together to establish this new CHC. The South Nepean area is one of the fastest growing areas in the greater City of Ottawa.

Photo Voice Project

On December 10 a reception was held to celebrate the work of the amateur photographers who took many pictures of places and spaces within the city of Ottawa. SWCHC has copies of the book which captures all of the pictures taken. Special thanks are in order to my colleague Leslie McDiarmid the Executive Director of the South East Ottawa CHC who took a lead role for this exciting project. This was an initiative of the Coalition of Community Health and Resource centres. In October, Board member Elda Allan attended the launch of the photo voice exhibit at Ottawa City hall.

Policy Addition

On December 2, the SLT approved a new Human Resource policy on “Workplace Bullying”. The purpose of this policy is to outline the procedures to be followed by employees, students and volunteers in resolving incidents of this nature in a confidential manner.

Workplace Culture Survey

Approximately 70 staff have completed a survey to ascertain their thoughts / perceptions / feelings on the operations of SWCHC. The results of this survey will be shared with the Board in January. The questions asked in this survey are the same (with a few additions) to surveys completed in previous years so that trends can be determined. This workplace culture survey is completed every second year.

Back-office Integrations

An application has been made to the LHIN for funds to complete a feasibility study on the viability of back office integrations among the 9 Champlain CHCs. This possible integration initiative will focus primarily on areas of finance, human resources, information technology, and property management to determine where possible integrations make sense for reasons of efficiency and effectiveness. SWCHC (Jennifer Simpson) is taking a lead role in developing the funding request to the LHIN.

Anti-poverty Project

SWCHC with our Coalition partners is taking a lead role in applying for LHIN funds to assist with helping clients on Ontario Works apply for the Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP). A challenge with this application process is the medical review component. Nurse Practitioners and physicians are able to complete these forms; however it is a very cumbersome process. The city of Ottawa is supporting this initiative. Being on ODSP yields a greater financial benefit than being on Ontario Works.

Submitted by Jack McCarthy
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