

HEALTH RECRUITMENT PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE

TELECONFERENCE

FEBRUARY 8, 2021

8:38 a.m. The meeting convened with Councillor L. Baldwin-Sands, Chair, presiding.

ATTENDANCE

Members

Councillor L. Baldwin-Sands, Chair, City of St. Thomas
Councillor G. Jones, County of Elgin
Dr. C. Egbujuo, Family Physician

Officials

Wendell Graves, City Manager, City of St. Thomas
Julie Gonyou, C.A.O., County of Elgin
Cheryl Fish, Health Recruiter
Matt Smale, Corporate Administrative Clerk, City of St. Thomas

Absent

Dr. K. Scott, Family Physician
Dr. W. Chehadi, St. Thomas Elgin General Hospital

DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

Nil.

MINUTES

Motion by Dr. Egbujuo - Councillor Jones:

THAT: The minutes of the January 11, 2021 meeting be confirmed.

Carried.

Activity Report and Recruitment Projects - Health Recruiter - Appendix "A"

Ms. Fish provided an overview of activities and recruitment projects from January 2021.

Ms. Fish advised that two physicians were retiring from the Elgin FHO in 2021 and that she was providing recruitment assistance to replace these vacancies.

Ms. Fish advised that Discovery Week had been postponed for 2021 due to the ongoing pandemic and that she has been contacting new residents at the St. Thomas Elgin General Hospital.

NEW BUSINESS

Dr. Fahad Sheikh - Proposed Medical Building

The City Manager advised that Dr. Sheikh was proposing to construct a medical building in St. Thomas and was seeking capital for that project.

The members discussed the fact that the Committee has not contributed to new capital construction projects in the past.

Councillor Jones inquired whether new family health organizations could be supported in Elgin St. Thomas.

Ms. Fish advised that Elgin St. Thomas was considered an underserved area and that Health Force Ontario believed that additional Family Health Organizations could be supported.

The members agreed not to provide funding for construction projects.

CONFIRMED_____CHAIR

HEALTH RECRUITMENT PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE - 2

The City Manager would notify Dr. Sheikh of the Committee's direction relating to construction funding requests.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

St. Thomas and Area Homebuilders' Association Membership

The City Manager advised that no correspondence had been received from the St. Thomas and Area Homebuilders' Association.

St. Thomas Elgin General Hospital Membership

The City Manager advised that no correspondence had been received from the St. Thomas Elgin General Hospital.

NEXT MEETING

The members agreed that the next meeting would be held on March 8, 2021 at 8:30 am.

ADJOURNMENT

8:49 a.m. The meeting adjourned.

Appendix "A"

St Thomas-Elgin Health Recruitment Partnership Committee

Update Report

January 2021

Activities:

- 1) I received a list of Residents doing a placement at St. Thomas-Elgin General Hospital in February from Patty Aldrich. I will be contacting 7 Residents to arrange a telephone conversation at their convenience to review the practice opportunities we have available in St Thomas and Elgin County.
- 2) The two physicians retiring from the Elgin FHO in 2021 approved the posting of their ads on Health Force Ontario. They have also signed up for the virtual retirement sessions offered by the OMA. We had a couple of enquiries from these ads and I'm working on arranging a safe time for these physicians to meet. A new grad from McMaster has expressed a keen interest and has made an offer to take over one of these practices in September. Discussions are ongoing.
- 3) A group of internists contacted me about a construction project they wish to take place on property they acquired in the east end of St. Thomas. They plan to commence construction in early spring of 2021 and hope to have it completed in 12-15 months. The 15,000 sq. ft. facility will offer Medical offices, retail space etc. They have a lead physician and would like my assistance with starting a new Family Health Organization (FHO) and the recruitment of 6-8 physicians. I drafted an ad and posted it on Health Force Ontario.
- 4) I received an email from Dr. Connie Robinson advising that she will be retiring from her practice in Shedden July 2021. She was very pleased to announce that her daughter Meghan will be taking over her practice in June. I sent both of them information about "Transitioning out of Practice" and Taking over a Family Practice." They have requested my assistance to achieve a smooth transition. Dr. Meghan Robinson's fiancé will also be graduating as a Family Physician and wishes to do a specialty in wound management. I've sent him information about this and I'm waiting to hear back as to what area he wants to practice in. I will continue to work with them.
- 5) On January 19th I participated in a Webinar hosted by Ontario Health. Health Force Ontario has transitioned into Ontario Health and wanted to give Recruiter's an update on how or what services have changed and what has remained the same. Jane Tillmann will continue to be our Regional Advisor. The services we utilize will remain the same.

- 6) During the month of January I was able to have in-depth telephone conversations with 7 Residents who will be graduating in June 2021. I reviewed with them all the practice opportunities we have available now and what will be becoming available in 2022. I will continue to stay in touch with these physicians with the hope they will select our practice opportunities as a place to start their practice.

- 7) I have been working with Cindy Bratt from the East Elgin Family Health Team in Aylmer. We're working on finding a physician to replace Dr. Graham who wishes to retire this spring. We also have several candidates who have expressed an interest in the additional two positions that EEFHT will be adding. There is also a local new grad willing to do some locum coverage this summer with the hopes he will join their team permanently.

- 8) So far in February I have 3 telephone conversations scheduled with new grads to review the opportunities we have available in St Thomas and Elgin County.

Submitted by: Cheryl Fish- Health Recruiter