

HEALTH RECRUITMENT PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE

TELECONFERENCE

APRIL 12, 2021

8:30 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. K. Scott, 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. C. Egbujuo, Family Physician
Dr. W. Chehadi, St. Thomas Elgin General Hospital

DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

Nil.

MINUTES

Motion by Councillor Jones - Dr. Scott:

THAT: The minutes of the March 8, 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 March 2021.

Ms. Fish advised that she had provided a report to Dr. Black for his discussions with the Vice Dean of the Schulich School at Western University and that Western would be looking at ways to attract more local students to enroll at the school.

Ms. Fish advised that a number of new doctors were interested in providing locum services however there was no need within the local medical community in 2020.

Dr. Scott advised that cost could be a factor for some physicians when considering acquiring locum services.

The City Manager advised that the execution of agreements with the East Elgin Family Health Team for Partnership funding was in process.

NEW BUSINESS

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.

CONFIRMED _____ CHAIR

HEALTH RECRUITMENT PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE - 2

St. Thomas Elgin General Hospital Membership

The City Manager advised that communication had been received from Patty Aldrich, Executive Assistant, Medical Affairs advising that she could attend future meetings on behalf of the St. Thomas Elgin General Hospital.

NEXT MEETING

The members agreed that the next meeting would be held on May 3rd, 2021 at 8:30 am.

ADJOURNMENT

8:45 a.m. The meeting adjourned.

Appendix "A"

St. Thomas –Elgin Health Recruitment Partnership Committee

Update Report

MARCH 2021

Activities:

- 1) Progress still continues between Dr. Balsdon and Dr. Alexsi Sherazadishvili as they move forward with the details for the takeover of Dr. Balsdon's practice in September 2021.
- 2) In March I spoke with 6 Residents and 3 practicing Physicians to share with them the opportunities that are available in St Thomas and Elgin County now and in the near future.
- 3) Unfortunately once again this month the general orientation for Residents doing placements blocks at STEGH was cancelled. I think that future schedules will be postponed until January 2022. Patty will of course continue to send me the contact information for these Residents so I can reach out to them while doing their placements here in St Thomas.
- 4) After 5 weeks of working with a local hospitalist who had committed to Dr. Morrison to take over his practice changed his mind due to a timing issue. Dr. Morrison is very disappointed but we will continue our search to find the right fit.
- 5) Dr. Haruta is pleased to advise that Dr. Hertwig will assume the position of Lead for the new FHO that Dr. Haruta is working on developing. A teleconference call has been set up for early April with Jane Tillmann from Ontario Health to answer any questions and assist with advice as to how Dr. Hertwig should proceed and what his priorities will be as well as assistance with the timing on the project.
- 6) Last month I reached out to 5 of our scholarship recipients over the years. I was pleased to hear back from Jessica Jackson who advised she has taken a position with Internal Medicine in Sudbury. I also had a great conversation with Kim Vo. She will be finishing her residency in July 2022. We reviewed the opportunities available, however at the time of our discussion she had not made up her mind yet if she will be returning to Elgin County to practice. We will stay in touch over the next year.
- 7) The number of new Grads asking to be placed on the locum list continues to grow. We now have 10 physicians asking to try out practices before they will commit to starting or taking over a practice in St Thomas/Elgin County. With the pandemic and the travel restrictions last year none of our physicians required a locum and several cancelled any plans they had. It's unknown at this time what this summer travel possibilities will be and if most of the physicians on the list will get an opportunity to cover a locum.

- 8) I followed up with Cindy Bratt from the East Elgin Family Health Team in Aylmer on how she is progressing with the renovation plans to add two new Family medicine clinical practice physicians to her existing team. She advised that construction plans are underway and she is looking forward to me continuing to send possible candidates to her. Presently she has 5 potential candidates that she is interviewing. She also advised she is waiting to receive confirmation from the physician that has expressed an interest in taking over Dr. Graham's practice. This is expected by April 2nd.

- 9) Last month I prepared a summary report for Dr. Black which covered issues such as recruitment challenges and successes, up to date stats, and a request for assistance on convincing new grads to take the role as "Lead" in new FHO's. I also requested his assistance with convincing Preceptors to reach out to me when they have a Resident doing a placement so I can take advantage of this opportunity to show them St Thomas/Elgin County and share what opportunities exist while doing their placement here. Dr. Black shared this info with Dr. Tithecott the Vice Dean at Schulich. Dr. Black advised that I would be receiving feedback and advised that one thing was made clear that there is a greater push to select Medical Students from the local population. Currently less than 25% of Western's students are local and they want to push this higher since local students tend to gravitate back home. I'm looking forward to receiving additional feedback.

Submitted by:

Cheryl Fish- Health Recruiter-City of St Thomas/County of Elgin