

## HEALTH RECRUITMENT PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE

### TELECONFERENCE

APRIL 4, 2022

8:32 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  
A. DeVries, St. Thomas Elgin Home Builders Association

#### Officials

Sandra Datars Bere, City Manager, City of St. Thomas  
Julie Gonyou, C.A.O., County of Elgin  
Jon Hindley, Corporate Administrative & Accessibility Clerk, City of St. Thomas  
Cheryl Fish, Health Recruiter

#### Regrets

Dr. C. Egbujuo, Family Physician  
P. Benfeito, St. Thomas Elgin General Hospital

### DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

Nil.

### MINUTES

Motion by Dr. Scott - Councillor Jones:

THAT: The minutes of the March 7, 2022 meeting be confirmed.

Carried.

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

Ms. Fish provided an overview of activities and recruitment projects for March 2022.

The City Manager advised that she had met with Dr. Ikafia about physician recruitment funding and that a request would be made for the May meeting.

### NEW BUSINESS

#### Ontario Medical Association - Ratification of Physician Services Agreement

Dr. Scott advised that the Ontario Medical Association had recently ratified a new Physician Services Agreement and that there would be some implications to Family Health Organization sizes and accountabilities.

Ms. Fish advised that Ontario Health would be holding a Town Hall meeting with health recruiters on May 24 to discuss the new agreement.

The members discussed adding this topic to a future agenda, following the Town Hall meeting.

### NEXT MEETING

The members agreed that the next meeting would be held on May 2nd, 2022 at 8:30 a.m.

### ADJOURNMENT

8:44 a.m. The meeting adjourned.

CONFIRMED \_\_\_\_\_ CHAIR

## St. Thomas –Elgin Recruitment Committee

### Update Report

March 2022

#### Activities:

- 1) I'm extremely pleased to advise that an agreement has been signed between Dr. Gregory and Dr. Ikafia for him to take over the practice on May 31<sup>st</sup>. Until this time Dr. Ikafia will be a locum to cover Dr. Gregory's patients. The paperwork has been signed and submitted to the Ministry and Dr. Ikafia has met with Sandra Datars Bere to request the incentive fund. I'm so happy for Dr. Gregory that he can retire with the peace of mind that his patients will be well taken care of. Dr. Ikafia has been practicing for many years in B.C. His wife will be completing her medical training in the U.S. in June and they have 2 young sons. They are very happy to be coming back together and are looking forward to being in Southwestern Ontario. Dr. Ikafia will be a wonderful asset to our medical community.
- 2) The St. Thomas-Elgin Health Recruitment Partnership will once again this year provide support to the St. Thomas-Elgin Medical Association (STEMA) by providing the funding for door prizes at their Dr. McLay Miller dinner hosted at the Golf Course on April 30<sup>th</sup>. In return for this support we are provided with 2 complimentary tickets which I can offer to a Resident or new grad that has expressed an interest in practicing in Elgin County. Once again I have been offered the opportunity to purchase a ticket to attend. My ability to attend this event has offered a great opportunity to network with our medical community.
- 3) A survey of our scholarship recipients identified that the best date for the majority of them to attend a dinner during March break was Monday March 21<sup>st</sup>. I made arrangements at the St Thomas Golf Course. The timing was good for the scholarship recipients however it meant that several of our committee members were unable to attend. I revised the guest list and decided to invite a number of our recently recruited new physicians. I'm pleased to advise that Dr. Bolzon, Dr. Robinson and Dr. Bell supported this event. Many thanks to Julie at the County who also provided two special guests. The evening was a great success and personalized "Thank You" notes have been sent to everyone who participated.
- 4) In the month of March I had the pleasure of speaking with three (3) new grads. They will be completing their training in June 2022. All the opportunities which exist in St Thomas and Elgin County were discussed and arrangements were made for them to have ongoing communication with the retiring physicians and contact was established with representatives from other clinics where practice opportunities are available.

- 5) I reached out to Sheri Nolan at STEGH and arranged a time to have a telephone call to provide an orientation on the Recruitment committee and also on what our roles have been in the past to host "Discovery Week". I think Sheri found this helpful and is looking forward to participating at our next committee meeting scheduled for Monday April 4<sup>th</sup>.
- 6) We have been advised that Discovery Week will take place this year and Sheri has confirmed that 6 students will be hosted the week of May 30-June 3<sup>rd</sup>. I'm pleased to advise that Cindy Bratt the Executive Director at the East Elgin Family Health Team has decided they would like to host 4 students. I contacted Cindy and suggested that we all work together to host a combined event as we have done in the past. Sheri, Cindy and I will be meeting on Thursday March 31<sup>st</sup> to start the planning for placements and events.
- 7) Contact information was received from Sheri at STEGH on Residents doing placements with them from March 7- April 11<sup>th</sup>. Six (6) emails were sent to placements offering to have telephone calls to discuss the practice opportunities that are available in St Thomas and Elgin County now and what will be coming available in the near future. I have heard back from 2 Residents so far. Follow up will take place before the end of their placement.
- 8) This month I re-established our contacts at Westervelt College. My original contact has retired and I'm pleased to say that Karla McConnaghy will be providing us with the same services. If a new or existing physician requires clinical office staff then Westervelt will be happy to post for free the job description on their web site. Both Dr. Ikafia and Dr. Ajogwu are utilizing this service.
- 9) I have had two requests this month for locum coverage over the summer. As you may recall I keep a list of new grads looking to do locums and put them in contact with physicians in our area who are in need of coverage.
- 10) Thanks to Dr. Scott for forwarding the information from the Ontario Medical Association (OMA) regarding the event they host for retiring physicians to meet with Residents looking to take over a practice. This event is hosted in London on May 11<sup>th</sup>. I have passed it along to Dr. Toth and Dr. Grigore.
- 11) Once again I met with Mike McMahon, Executive Director for the Thames Valley Family Health Team (TVFHT). We continue with discussions on what the TVFHT could offer to our existing and new physicians. Once more details have been proposed Mr. McMahon will be scheduled to meet with our committee.

Submitted by: Cheryl Fish – Health Recruiter