

**HEALTH RECRUITMENT PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE**

**TELECONFERENCE**

**MAY 2, 2022**

8:50 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  
Cheryl Fish, Health Recruiter (Depart 9:02 a.m.)  
Matt Smale, Corporate Administrative Clerk, City of St. Thomas

Regrets

Dr. C. Egbujuo, Family Physician  
S. Nolan, St. Thomas Elgin General Hospital  
Julie Gonyou, C.A.O., County of Elgin

**DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST**

Nil.

**MINUTES**

Motion by A. DeVries - Councillor Jones:

THAT: The minutes of the April 4, 2022 meeting be confirmed.

Carried.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Recommendation of Health Recruitment Incentive Funding to Dr. Attai Ikafia - Appendix "A"

Motion by A. DeVries - Dr. Scott:

THAT: The Health Recruitment Partnership approve an allocation of \$33,000 in Health Recruitment Incentive funding to Dr. Attai Ikafia, pending approval by St. Thomas City Council.

Carried.

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

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

**CLOSED SESSION**

Motion by Dr. Scott - Councillor Jones:

THAT: This meeting be closed to deal with a personal matter about an identifiable individual at 9:02 a.m.

Carried.

CONFIRMED\_\_\_\_\_CHAIR

**HEALTH RECRUITMENT PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE - 2**

**OPEN SESSION**

Motion by Councillor Jones - Dr. Scott:

THAT: We do now rise from Closed Session. (9:13 a.m.)

Carried.

**NEXT MEETING**

The members agreed that the next meeting would be held on June 6th, 2022 at 8:30 a.m.

**ADJOURNMENT**

9:14 a.m. The meeting adjourned.

St. Thomas-Elgin Recruitment Committee

Update Report

April 2022

Activities:

- 1) I'm pleased to advise that Dr. Emel Ghafari and her husband who is a dentist will be attending the St Thomas-Elgin Medical Association (STEMA) dinner as a complimentary guest on April 30<sup>th</sup>. Conversation about practice opportunities here in St Thomas and Elgin County have been ongoing with Dr. Ghafari over the past year and when she completes her residency in June 2023 she is very interested in practicing here along with her husband hopefully in the same location. The other two residents which I have been working with for some time are unable to attend due to work commitments.
- 2) Two planning meetings have taken place so far for "Discovery Week" which we are hosting from May 30-June 3<sup>rd</sup>. Cindy Bratt from the East Elgin Family Health Team along with Sheri Nolan from St Thomas Elgin General Hospital ( STEGH ) and I met once in person and again virtually. Many ideas were shared and past arrangements were discussed. It has been confirmed with Schulich that we will be hosting 10 first year medical students. Andy from G.t's in Port Stanley has confirmed that he can host us for dinner this year with a few minor changes. We cannot have family style dining. He has revised the menu to allow us 4-5 selections in the same price range. He will be setting up the tables under the canopy and I can provide him with a final head count on May 27<sup>th</sup> in preparation for the **Recruitment Partnership's dinner to take place on Tuesday May 31<sup>st</sup> at 6:00 pm**. Please mark your calendars and hold this date invitations will be coming out in early May.
- 3) I'm working with both Dr. Toth and Dr. Grigore to complete physician profiles. These are provided to Residents attending the OMA retirement event on May 11<sup>th</sup>. This documentation highlights these physician's practices and provides details that will help entice new Residents to take over these practices.
- 4) Once again this month contact information for Residents participating in the Medical Learners placement at STEGH was provided by Sheri Nolan. I have reached out to them and have begun scheduling telephone calls over the next couple of weeks to discuss practice opportunities in greater detail.
- 5) Dr. Greg Ikafia and Dr. Matthew Wu both new physicians to Elgin County will be participating in the orientation program for new physicians that will take place virtually on Friday May 6<sup>th</sup>.

- 6) Follow up has taken place with Mike McMahon from the Thames Valley Family Health Team on how his proposal for providing support to new FHO's and Physicians is coming along. An update meeting is scheduled for April 27<sup>th</sup>. More details to follow.
- 7) On Tuesday May 24<sup>th</sup> I will be participating in an educational session hosted by Ontario Health regarding the changes that will be implemented as a result of a new Physician Services agreement with the Ontario Medical Association. I will share these changes with the committee at our next meeting.
- 8) The meeting with Dr. Daniel Black to discuss his proposal on providing a mentoring program for High School students was postponed due to illness; however I have rescheduled it for May 1<sup>st</sup>. More details to be shared next month.

Submitted by: Cheryl Fish- Health Recruiter.

Appendix "B"

May 2, 2022

Report to : Committee Members

Health Recruitment Partnership, Elgin St. Thomas

Subject: **Recommendation of Health Recruitment Incentive Funding to Dr. Attai Ikafia**

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Through the efforts of Cheryl Fish, Health Recruiter, Dr. Attai Ikafia has been recruited to assume the practice of Dr. Gregory, who is retiring.

Dr. Ikafia has transitioned from British Columbia to Ontario over the last several months and has been working closely as of late with Dr. Gregory to ensure a smooth transition for the patients within the practice. Through a locum, Dr. Ikafia has already begun providing services to patients with the intent to fully assume the practice on June 1, 2022.

Ms. Fish and I met together with Dr. Ikafia in March, 2022. At that time, Dr. Ikafia indicated great excitement and interest in both coming to the community as well as assuming the practice. Dr. Ikafia has requested access to Health Recruitment Funds in order make improvements to his new practice including establishing a new electronic medical records system and completing office updates. Dr. Ikafia has submitted the required transfer documentation to the Ministry of Health and is awaiting approval.

A draft Incentive Funding agreement has been established and reviewed by Dr. Ikafia. A copy of this draft agreement is attached for information. It will be executed once HRP and City Council approval is in place.

**Recommendation:**

**It is recommended that the Health Recruitment Partnership approve an allocation of \$33,000 in Health Recruitment Incentive funding to Dr. Attai Ikafia, pending the approval by St. Thomas City Council.**

Respectfully submitted,



Sandra Datars Bere  
City Manager  
City of St. Thomas