

HEALTH RECRUITMENT PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE

VIA ZOOM

AUGUST 8, 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
S. Nolan, St. Thomas Elgin General Hospital

Officials

Sandra Datars Bere, City Manager, City of St. Thomas
Julie Gonyou, C.A.O., County of Elgin
Cheryl Fish, Health Recruiter
Taylor Mooney, Strategic Initiatives Manager
Matt Smale, Corporate Administrative Clerk, City of St. Thomas

Regrets

A. DeVries, St. Thomas Elgin Home Builders Association
Dr. C. Egbujuo, Family Physician

DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

Nil.

MINUTES

Motion by Councillor Jones - Dr. Scott:

THAT: The minutes of the June 13, 2022 meeting be confirmed.

Carried.

NEW BUSINESS

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

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

The members discussed the number of residents of Elgin St. Thomas registered on the Health Care Connect portal as being without a family physician.

Ms. Fish advised that she had spoken with Christina Holley of Health Care Connect regarding the accuracy of the list and that the numbers may be understated.

Dr. Scott advised that she has had discussions with representatives from Ontario Health regarding the effectiveness of the current Health Care Connect system. She further advised that catchment areas for physician rosters had grown during the pandemic with the increase in virtual patient visits now taking place.

Dr. Scott agreed to circulate a map to the members illustrating the geographic distribution of patients from her Family Health Organization.

NEW BUSINESS

Future Agenda Items

The members noted that municipal representatives would be attending the upcoming Association of Municipalities of Ontario conference and that a briefing of discussions from that conference could be provided at the next meeting.

CONFIRMED _____ CHAIR

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Ms. Fish advised that results from a survey of Medical Discovery Week participants could be discussed at the next meeting.

NEXT MEETING

The members agreed that the next meeting would be held on September 12th, 2022 at 8:30 a.m. via Zoom.

ADJOURNMENT

9:05 a.m. The meeting adjourned.

CONFIRMED _____ CHAIR

Appendix "A"

St. Thomas-Elgin Recruitment Committee Update Report June & July 2022

Activities:

- 1) Dr. Robbie Singh has joined the Elgin After Hours Clinic (Walk in Clinic) starting in July to assist with coverage. As a result of the new physician agreement the "After Hours Clinic" will increase their hours of operation. In the past they were required to provide seven three hour clinics per week and now they must provide nine. We welcome Dr. Singh and hope he will enjoy working in Elgin County and possibly consider a more permanent opportunity.
- 2) I'm pleased to advise that Dr. Anthony Ezepue will be taking over the practice of Dr. Chamberlain Ajogwu. The two of them will be working at their newly renovated clinic located at 19 Elgin Street. St Thomas. Dr. Ajogwu will be focusing on Pain Management and Dr. Ezepue will take over his roster of 1000 patients. Dr. Ezepue starts Oct. 1, 2022. He will be increasing his roster by taking on at least 600 more patients. I assisted Dr. Ezepue with preparing and submitting his paperwork to the Ministry.
- 3) In June I introduced 4 physicians who are practicing in other locations to the practice opportunities that are available in Elgin County. Introductions were arranged and tours were set up for these physicians to have one on one conversation. These conversations are still ongoing as we await their decision as to whether or not they wish to relocate.
- 4) I'm happy to report that Dr. Toth has reached an agreement for a physician and his wife who is a nurse practitioner to take over his practice in March 2023. He is waiting for signatures on the paperwork from the lawyers before announcing the arrangement.
- 5) I had the pleasure of speaking with 3 Residents & provided them with the details on the practice opportunities we have available in the near future. They will be ready to practice in 2023. During my conversation with one of the Residents, I was pleased and surprised to hear that Dr. Katie McLaughlin is from Elgin County and although she wants to practice family medicine she would also like to do Obstetrics. I'm going to continue to work with Katie to see if there is any possibility of this happening. We also discussed the mentoring program that Daniel Black is putting together. She was very interested in participating in this so I have connected Katie and Daniel so they can work together on a presentation starting in September.
- 6) I have made contact with two local individuals who are attending medical school outside of Canada. I met with Annie Ferguson who is attending medical school in Scotland and with Patrick Sharman attending school in Ireland. I will stay in touch and share with them info on any events we will be hosting with the hopes they might be home and able to attend.

- 7) I received the contact information from McMaster University for the incoming Residents for July 2022. I will reach out to the 72 contacts with an initial introductory email and hopefully arrange a time when we could meet or have a telephone call to discuss the practice opportunities available now and in the near future.
- 8) I had conversations with two representatives from Elgin municipalities. I have assisted them by collecting data from my fellow recruiter's regarding what other municipalities include in their lease/rental agreements and what they are charging for rent in their areas. I have spoken with North Middlesex, Trenton, Wingham & Listowel. I'm still waiting to hear from Kincardine. I'm hoping this information will be helpful when renewing contracts with their physicians.
- 9) I reached out and had a lengthy telephone call with Christina Holley our representative with Health Care Connect (HCC). I asked if she could share with me what her data shows about the number of citizens in Elgin County without a Family Physician. The numbers she provided were 820 in St. Thomas and 355 in Elgin County for a total of 1175. We had an honest conversation about the effectiveness of the HCC program. Christina agreed that the numbers she provided were probably $\frac{1}{4}$ of the actual number of unattached patients. I have shared this information with Dr. Scott who was working on a presentation to Ontario Health.
- 10) I had a telephone conversation with Dr. Sheikh requesting if he could provide me with an update on how his new construction project is progressing. Unfortunately he advised that his project for a new medical center has been postponed indefinitely due to high interest rates & high construction costs. He might consider a smaller clinic as he moves forward with the retail construction in 2023. He will keep me updated as to how things are progressing and I will continue to make Residents and new Physicians aware of the changes.
- 11) Thank you emails were sent out to the organizations and individuals who helped to make Discovery Week a great success.
- 12) I have contacted Mike McMahon from the Thames Valley Family Health Team and rescheduled his meeting with Sandra and I for Sept. 7th. By this time he should have a better understanding on how the new Physician Agreement has impacted his ability to provide support.

Submitted by: Cheryl Fish-Health Recruiter