

HEALTH RECRUITMENT PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE

VIA ZOOM

AUGUST 14, 2023

8:30 a.m. The meeting convened with Councillor Baldwin-Sands, Chair, presiding.

ATTENDANCE

Members

Councillor L. Baldwin-Sands, City of St. Thomas
Councillor J. Couckuyt, County of Elgin
Councillor G. Jones, County of Elgin
Councillor T. McCaulley, City of St. Thomas
S. Nolan, St. Thomas Elgin General Hospital
Dr. K. Scott, Family Physician
A. DeVries, St. Thomas Elgin Home Builders Association

Officials

Sandra Datars Bere, City Manager, City of St. Thomas
Don Shropshire, C.A.O. County of Elgin
Cheryl Fish, Health Recruiter
Matt Smale, Legislative Services Coordinator, City of St. Thomas

Regrets

Dr. C. Egbujuo, Family Physician

DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

Nil.

MINUTES

Motion by Councillor Jones - Dr. Scott:

THAT: The minutes of the June 5, 2023 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 2023.

Ms. Fish advised that survey responses from Medical Discovery Week participants would be forwarded to the members for their information.

Ms. Fish advised that an inquiry had been received for potential sites for a clinic in St. Thomas and that the St. Thomas Economic Development Corporation had been enlisted to help identify potential sites.

The members encouraged the Health Recruiter to provide the interested party with contact information for local municipal offices who may also have suitable sites near St. Thomas.

Ms. DeVries advised that a proposal from the St. Thomas Elgin Home Builders Association noted in the Health Recruiter's report was undergoing further development and could be discussed at a future meeting.

The members discussed the status of proposals being made by the Elgin Ontario Health Team to the Province.

Dr. Scott advised that the Ministry of Health had received a significant number of submissions and had indicated that it may respond in the fall. She added that the volume of proposals indicated the strong desire for team based care options in Ontario.

CONFIRMED _____ CHAIR

HEALTH RECRUITMENT PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE - 2

AMO Delegations

Councillor Couckuyt advised that the Town of Aylmer would make a delegation at the upcoming AMO conference regarding the need for family physicians in area communities.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Feedback from Physicians Involved in the Health Recruitment Program

The City Manager advised that this item could be considered in conjunction with the transition to a new Health Recruiter and that a report could be prepared for the October meeting.

Dr. Scott advised that she would provide updated roster statistics.

CLOSED SESSION

Motion by S. Nolan - Councillor McCaulley:

THAT: This meeting be closed to deal with a personal matter about an identifiable individual at 9:00 a.m.

Carried

OPEN SESSION

Motion by Councillor Couckuyt - A. DeVries:

THAT: We do now rise from closed session at 9:09 a.m.

Carried.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for September 18, 2023.

ADJOURNMENT

9:11 a.m. The meeting adjourned.

Appendix "A"

St. Thomas -Elgin Recruitment Committee

Update Report

June & July 2023

Activities:

- 1) We are pleased to advise that "Discovery Week 2023" events went very well. The survey results are attached for your review. Thank you, emails were sent to the organizations and or individuals who hosted an event or provided a dinner.

- 2) Plans were finalized with the Schulich School of medicine the Hospital (STEGH), the City and County to host for the first time a summer "Discovery Health Care Camp" from July 10-July 14th. Thirty local students in grades 9-12 could apply. The Health Recruitment Partnership Committee (HRP) hosted 5 local students. The focus of the camp was to introduce students to various careers within the health care field. Daniel Black was selected by Schulich with the help of two first year medical students to organize the events & presenters for the week. I joined the students for a Trivia pursuit game on the last day. It was a great event, and I was able to meet many of the students. At least three of the students attending advised me they are interested in pursuing a career as a physician, so they have been provided with future contact information. This event is being considered to be hosted annually with Schulich agreeing to provide information as early as possible. The HRP will be discussing how to formalize the sponsorship program for future events.

- 3) I received a telephone call from a Development firm in London who is experiencing a great deal of frustration with trying to recruit physicians to their newly renovated facility in southwest London. I shared with them information on our programs and tried to provide her with assurances that what she is experiencing is not unique but is similar in most areas in Ontario. We have agreed to stay in touch and share information on any new programs we implement.

- 4) I was pleased to assist Sandra and the committee who are interviewing the applicants for the Health Recruiter's position. I reviewed the applications, made suggestions for a short list and participated in the interviewing process. An update will be provided by the selection committee at our next meeting.

- 5) The STEGH awarded their bursary to two local second year medical students. Brandon Brower from Aylmer and Brian Malbrecht from St. Thomas. I arranged to meet with Brian Malbrecht to share with him what practice opportunities and programs are available. Brian and his family purchased a home in St. Thomas to be close to his family in London. His bursary placement at STEGH is going great and he is looking forward to applying for our scholarship program this fall. We will stay in touch.

- 6) A meeting was held on July 5th with Suzie Dennis from Doug Tarry Homes and Angela DeVries from the Home Builders Association to discuss a proposal they would like to make to the HRP. Our input was provided, a proposal will be coming to the HRP at our August committee meeting.
- 7) Throughout the months of June and July I contacted and met with three Residents doing placements at STEGH. They have been provided with an overview of all practice opportunities available in Elgin County now and what will become available in the near future.
- 8) Prior to the summer I reached out to several of our local students who are doing their medical school outside of Canada to see if they had plans to be home this summer. I was pleased to be able to meet with Katie Monteith. She is doing her training in Ireland. I shared with her the HRP committees' decision to revise the Scholarship criteria this year and she is looking forward to applying. I've had conversation with 2 local students who are starting medical school in 2024. They have been added to our list to stay in touch and have included them in the scholarship announcement.
- 9) I participated in several meetings along with Sandra with the Elgin-Ontario Health Team as they were working on submitting several expressions of interest (EOI) for enhanced or new programs. The EOI's were due by June 16th. There were 384 submissions with a total request of 1 billion dollars. Thirty million is available. I'm sure that Sandra or Dr. Scott can provide ongoing feedback as to the details of the submissions and when approvals will be expected.
- 10) Meetings are still ongoing with the physicians that Sandra and I met with in May as they continue to have a keen interest in obtaining a facility/property to construct a clinic. Several site visits have been arranged however they are still looking at options.
- 11) In August I worked with one of our local physicians who had an internationally trained physician doing locum coverage with him. He would like to find additional locums so this physician can remain here while he waits for his wife, who is also a physician, to finish her training and join him. I have reached out to several clinics, and we have found him 8 weeks so far. Other options are being proposed as we wait to see if other clinics could provide him with additional locum coverage.

Submitted by: Cheryl Fish- Health Recruiter