

Executive Director Report November 2011

Policies and Procedures

The following new policies were approved by SLT:
PHC 11-14 PHC Medical Directive Tetanus and Diphtheria Immunization in Adults
PHC 11-13 Medical Directive Prenatal Glucose Challenge Test

SWCHC United Way Campaign

SWCHC staff enjoyed a wonderful Chinese food lunch on November 2nd that raised \$500 towards our SWCHC United Way Campaign. Board members are welcome to join the staff for our next United Way event on November 24th when we will be having a chili extravaganza from noon-1:00 pm. Cost for lunch is \$10.

OCISO AGM

Jack and Rosemary attended the OCISO AGM on November 9th and Rosemary was specifically recognized for her ongoing help in fundraising on behalf of SWCHC for the Marion Dewar Scholarship Fund. This year's awards were presented to two deserving young women, both pursuing post secondary education in Ottawa. To see their stories please go to the OCISO website.

“MoBro’s of SWCHC”

The men of SWCHC currently known as the “MoBro’s of SWCHC” are valiantly participating in Movember. Currently we have 9 MoBro’s registered with Movember Canada and as of the 16th we have raised \$1,240 for cancer research. It is worth mentioning that Jack McCarthy lead the charge by shaving off his moustache of 20 years in front of the roaring cheers of staff on Friday Nov 4th! A picture of Jack’s bare upper lip can be seen on our Facebook page.

Request for Proposal (RFP) for SWCHC Website

Corporate Services has released an RFP to have our website redesigned and modernized. When completed our new site will be easier to navigate and be mobile and tablet friendly. We should see the new website by spring 2012.

Holiday Season Celebration

SWCHC Board members are invited to join staff, volunteers, neighbours and community partners in a Holiday Season Celebration on December 14th starting at 5:00 pm.

Yet Keen New Year’s Fundraising Gala

The Yet Keen New Year’s Fundraising Gala’s planning is well underway and to date at least 8 tables have been sold. Many thanks to Board members Grace and Tony for leading the charge. All board members will be receiving an invitation to what promises to be a fabulous evening. Single tickets are \$68 and tables of 10 are \$680.

Primary Care Outreach to Seniors

We have received funding from the LHIN that will expand the Primary Care Outreach to Seniors program to SWCHC via South East Ottawa CHC. This program connects health services to isolated seniors in our catchment area. The funding supports an outreach nurse and a community health worker. With several seniors' buildings in our area, as well as newcomer seniors who face considerable barriers to access due to language issues, this program is very timely and in keeping with the LHIN's direction of supporting people in their homes and diverting them from hospital care.

Blue Pod Pilot

A subset of the Primary Health Care team is participating in a pilot project with the support of Health Quality Ontario. The Blue Pod Pilot providers are: Laura Muldoon, MD, Cuong Ngo Minh MD, Laura Kollenberg NP, Huy Truong RN, and Lekien Hong MOA. (Eventually, a social worker will be added.) Together, they are adapting the management of their practices so that their assigned clients will be cared for by someone on that mini team, rather than another provider on the larger team. The intent is to provide more timely access to care and improved continuity. In the process, a number of measures are being evaluated. This pilot is being conducted from Nov 21 to the end of March. Depending on its results, elements may be adapted to the larger Primary Health Care team.

Womens' Clinic

At St. Luke's Lunch Club, Yvonne Makosz NP is providing a health drop in once weekly for their clients. Since they know Yvonne from her outreach activities, there has been considerable interest and activity. Since few of them access health care providers regularly, she is conducting her first Women's' Clinic to provide preventative care (paps etc) this week.

Harm Reduction Team

Operation Come Home has approached us with an interest in becoming a partner in the Safer Inhalation Program. We are still waiting to receive confirmation from Centre 507 and Lowertown Community Resource Centre of their intention to join the program as well.

We are in the process of developing a pamphlet on Hepatitis C transmission, associated risky behaviours, and safer crack smoking information. CATIE (Canadian AIDS Treatment Information Exchange) is very interested in working with us on this and would undertake to do the medical review, translation into French, and national distribution outside Ottawa.

SWCHC is co- sponsoring an event for World AIDS Day (December 1), along with Ottawa Public Health, the HIV & Hepatitis C Prevention Research Team, and Sandy Hill CHC. The community forum, entitled "Minimizing the Impact of Crack Cocaine Use in Ottawa: Best Evidence to Date" will include presentations and panel discussion with Dr. Lynne Leonard, CMHA, the Ottawa Police Service, and crack users. We are expecting a diverse audience of community members, community and business associations, peers and health care professionals. Media will be invited.

Health Promotion Network of Eastern Ontario

Our Physical Activity Health Promoter and Manager of Health Promotion & Community Programs attended a planning day for the HPNEO (Health Promotion Network of Eastern Ontario) on Friday November 4th, 2001 and participated in a priority setting exercise with twelve other Eastern Ontario Community Health Centres. The goals identified at this meeting will guide the Network's activities in the next 4 years. SWCHC staff was consulted to obtain their input about health promotion priorities and this information was shared at this planning session.

Rochester Heights Community House

Rochester Heights has been selected to offer the I Love to Skate Program again this year! This program provides new skates, helmets and skating lessons for children between the ages of 6 and 12 years who might not otherwise have the chance to skate. This is a City wide program which is collaboration between Canadian Tire Jumpstart®, the Sens Foundation, the City of Ottawa and local community groups. We are looking forward to helping some children to learn to skate this winter at Plant Pool at their outdoor rink and the program will also be offered at our Laroche Park field house.

The Social Committee hosted a very successful Harvest Feast on October 15th 2011 and raised over \$300 for future social events for Rochester Heights! Almost 100 people attended the delicious dinner at 280 Rochester Street. In addition, the Committee organized a fun Halloween dance at 280 Rochester on Saturday October 29th 2011. The potluck event had some great homemade treats and we had a competition for best costume for the children with a \$25 gift card to Wal-Mart!

Community Development

The Community Development Framework is hosting a Learning Forum on December 1st. The purpose of this Forum is to bring together residents and service providers across Ottawa to share neighbourhood success stories (the Rochester Heights play structure project will be one of four success stories shared) and discuss the way forward. Through the CDF Action Plan for Rochester Heights, the refurbishment of the basketball court was highlighted as a major priority for the community. Through a partnership with IBM, we have been granted \$20,000 to go towards the refurbishment of the basketball court. A small resident committee will be struck shortly to continue with fundraising efforts with the hope that a new basketball court could be in place in the summer of 2012.

HIV Prevention for African/Caribbean Community:

We are in the final stages of planning the ACCHO (African and Caribbean Council on HIV/AIDS in Ontario) Symposium in Ottawa which will take place November 28th and 29th at the Routhier Community Centre. We organized this symposium in collaboration with a local symposium planning committee comprised of ACCHO, ACO (AIDS Committee of Ottawa, OPH (Ottawa Public Health), Lowertown Community Resource Centre, an ethno-cultural Radio Station and Somerset West Community Health Centre. The theme of the Symposium is Creating and Maintaining Effective Partnerships.

In addition, we are working with the Ottawa African, Caribbean and Black (ACB) Prevention Working Group to plan the World AIDS Day event on December 1, 2011 at Carleton University. We will be showing the DVD "The Woman I Have Become" and this forum will feature a panel discussion about the video.

HIV Prevention Documentary Film / Screening on Parliament Hill

We are pleased to announce that our HIV Prevention Documentary video titled, "One Blood: Youth Linked in Action" will be screened on Parliament Hill as part of a World Aids Day Breakfast event on December 1, 2011. This film was produced by SWCHC in partnership with Caribbean Vulnerable Communities (Jamaica) and captures the voices of youth from Jamaica and the Caribbean Diaspora in Canada as they explore the experiences and struggles of those living with and affected by HIV and AIDS. This video is a key contract deliverable in our ICAD funded project

This event is being hosted by our project funder; The Interagency Coalition on AIDS and Development (ICAD) and Co-hosted by MPs Lois Brown (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of International Cooperation), Libby Davies (Official Opposition Health Critic), Carolyn Bennett (Liberal Critic for Aboriginal Affairs & Northern Development and the Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency) and Elizabeth May (Leader of the Green Party)

Physical Activity – Health Promotion

Our Physical Activity Health Promoter is in the process of preparing a City of Ottawa grant application to support Physical Activity Program activities for seniors which includes a request for \$20,000/year for up to 3 years to support program staffing and equipment expenses. Program partnerships will include Ottawa Community House and Aging in Place. The Physical Activity Program has been active delivering seniors' programming including the Vietnamese chair exercise group, Vietnamese mental health group, activities with Chinese Seniors as well as the Adult/Senior and Children exercise group at McNabb Community Centre. There are also many seniors making use of the physical activity drop in room. The regular seniors chair exercise programs' at 100 Empress and 1041 Wellington Street is scheduled to resume in January 2012.

Submitted by: Jack McCarthy
November 23, 2011