

Executive Director's Report - April 2017

Primary Health Care (PHC)

Veterinary Clinic

On Saturday April 1, SWCHC staff (NESI/PHC) collaborated on another successful veterinary clinic. On the veterinary side 28 clients were served and care provided for 13 cats and 16 dogs. Thirteen pets received microchips thirteen were booked for spay/neuter appointments. On the human side five clients accessed primary health care, 17 accessed dental screening (Ottawa Public Health), twenty Naloxone kits were distributed, and ten attendees were provided access to nicotine replacement therapy.

Lung Health Program Expansion

The Champlain LHIN's 2017-18 Annual Business Plan includes: "New interventions include developing a lung health strategy." Michelle Maynard, Manager of SWCHC's regional Lung Health Program is working closely with the LHIN on plans to expand our current lung health program. Expansion includes the previously reported Home Based Ventilation Program as well as expansion of current Lung Health and Pulmonary Rehab services. Since we have already outgrown our space at the Rosemount Branch we are also looking for accessible, affordable rental space that will accommodate the Lung Health Programs and permit expansion. Exciting times for Lung Health.

Children and Youth Services

School Engagement

SWCHC is supporting Notre Dame High School with their Mentor & Mentee program, which pairs 20 high school students with 20 grade 6 students, as a way to ease their transition into high school.

Partnerships

Children from all after-school program sites had the opportunity to partake in the City of Ottawa's I Love to Skate Wrap-Up Party which took place in the Ottawa Senators arena at the Canadian Tire Centre. This year, more than 500 children 6 -12 years, from 31 local neighborhoods, participated in the *I Love to Skate* program at no cost. Recreational skating lessons were offered by the City of Ottawa from various outdoor rinks. Ice skates and hockey helmets were also provided during the four weeks long program.

We also had children and youth participating in the City of Ottawa's *I Love to Dance Recital*, giving participants the opportunity to showcase what they've learned to family, friends, and their broader communities. The 2017 I Love to Dance recitals were held at the City of Ottawa's Shenkman Arts Centre. The program provides an opportunity for children in high priority neighbourhoods to participate in free instructional dance classes across the city. For 10 weeks each winter, children and youth come together with a professional dance instructor to develop new skills and to collaborate on a dance performance.

Community Outreach

SWCHC's Child and Youth Community Developer represented CHRC Youth Network at the Headstrong Youth Mental Health Summit, and shared information on CHRC's programs and services with high school students and school staff.

Counselling Team

SWCHC have renewed the contract with Jewish Family Services (JFS) for a second year in collaboration with the Counselling Team to continue to offer the Walk-In Single Session Counselling service at our site on Tuesday afternoons. A number of agencies offer this service in partnership with JFS (who receive funding from the LHIN for this program) and contract with SWCHC for counseling supervision of the JFS staff on site that day. The main target population for the SWCHC site is the Chinese community. Counselling staff involved in the program with JFS are developing new promotional material to increase awareness of this service within the Chinese community.

The Counselling Team is involved in discussions with other teams/staff within the Centre and external agencies to identify new areas for collaboration. In support of the directions of the recent strategic planning process we are looking at ways of engaging more outside of the Centre and in the community.

Health Promotion and Community Services

City of Ottawa

The City approved the 2017 City budget in December 2017 which included a two percent cost of living increase for our City of Ottawa Renewal Funding for January to December 31, 2017. As a result, SWCHC will receive an increase of **\$13,981** this calendar year. In addition, the City approved our 2017 Sustainability Fund application and we will receive an additional **\$20,857** base funding increase. Our total 2017 Renewable Community Funding with the cost of living and base funding increase is **\$733,893**. We will be applying the base increase to the Yet Keen Seniors Program and Rochester Heights Community House because these were priorities we identified in our Sustainability Fund application.

Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC)

Our African Caribbean and Black (ACB) Community Development and HIV Health Initiative project, funded by PHAC, had been receiving \$80,000 in contract funding which ended on March 31, 2017. We applied for **\$80,000** in transitional funding under the Community Action Fund Program for the 2017-2018 fiscal year, and this was approved by PHAC.

Yet Keen Seniors Program

Yet Keen is conducting its annual membership renewal drive in April 2017. We are adjusting our membership, lunch and hair cutting fees to reflect the rising costs in the program. The last time we made this adjustment in fees was in 2015.

Community Development

This year's team of MSW students from Carleton University completed their research study on rooming houses in the SWCHC area and presented their findings and discussed advocacy strategies at the April 2017 Advocacy Committee meeting. In addition, the students gave a presentation to staff, partners, and clients on April 6, 2017 at 55 Eccles. This work will help inform SWCHCs rooming house advocacy strategy.

Rochester Heights Community House

March was a busy month at the Rochester Heights Community House Community House. Our Community House Advisory Board (CHAB) held their first event of 2017 where we brought 25 community members (and three staff) to dinner at a popular buffet in Gatineau. It was an innovative way for the Advisory Committee and House staff to connect with new and existing leaders in the community. We targeted new members of the community and strong community advocates. The Community House provided childcare for parents and it was an opportunity for

adults to connect with neighbors', learn about the services we provide and talk about where residents identify strengths and opportunities to grow in the community.

Also in March, the Community House hosted a March Break Day-Camp. Every day during March Break, twenty children from the community 6-12 years joined our CH staff for activities ranging from: arts and crafts with Ottawa School of Art, indoor gardening and cooking with Sue from Parkdale Food Centre, sports at the Adult High School gymnasium, snow tubing at Mount Pakenham, and highly anticipated outings at Plant Pool and Recreation Centre. It was a week of learning, crafting, playing and being active. The Community House also hosted an extremely successful Income Tax Clinic on March 22, 2017, serving seventeen residents.

Community Health Promotion

We continue to offer the Good Market, the food Mobile Market and Good Food Box Program. On April 6, 2017, the Good Food Market was hosted at 280 Rochester Street from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm. As well, the Market Mobile is being offered weekly on Thursday afternoon from 5:00 pm to 6:00 pm. Both markets are a great opportunity to access fresh and affordable fruits and veggies. In addition, The Good Food Box Program continues to be available to clients and residents in our catchment area. They picked up their food boxes on April 19, 2017 at 55 Eccles Street.

Community Development & HIV Health Initiative

The African Caribbean and Black (ACB) Community Development and HIV Health Initiative project continues to build on the capacities of the service providers through the Hub, African Canadian Association (ACAO) and Faith Initiative. The program collaborated with the Cameroonian Community of Ottawa (COCACO) to organize a Health and Immigration Symposium. During the reporting month, the program also engaged the community through many activities.

HIV/ AIDS HIV Prevention Program

The HIV Prevention Program was involved in various activities and events during the reporting period. We organized our annual volunteer appreciation workshop and 12 people participated in this event. In addition, we offered HIV 101 training to two volunteers. As well, we collaborated with Rochester Heights Community House staff to deliver basic reproductive health and HIV education to youth at risk. Six youth 12-18 years of age participated in the training. In addition, we completed the third and final Black PRAISE research project survey at the River Jordan Ministries.

Anonymous HIV Testing Program

The Anonymous HIV Testing Outreach Program recently developed a partnership with the newly branded gay/bi/trans/queer men's health organization, MAX Ottawa. MAX's Mental Health Navigator will join the Anonymous HIV Testing Outreach Worker in providing outreach services and resources to gay/bi/queer men at Eastern Ottawa outreach locations.

The Needle Exchange and Safer Inhalation (NESI) Program

The NESI Program has been busy organizing a number of activities during this reporting period. NESI is delivering bi-weekly medication sessions in the NESI room and supporting the work of a Peer in these sessions. Our peer facilitator is now branching out and leading meditation sessions for groups at Rideauwood Addiction and Family Services. As well, NESI collaborated with PHC on hosting the well-liked Community Veterinary Outreach Clinic onsite at SWCHC.

NESI also organized a peer meeting for graduates of the Peer Program as well as for active peers. A group of twenty-five people met to discuss harm reduction in the community. As well, new medical treatments for cocaine addiction in people on methadone were presented by Joanna Binch followed by a lively discussion.

In addition, the Supervised Injection Service (SIS) Peer Advisory Group met and discussed their needs and gave feedback on the current SIS Plan.

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April 26, 2017