

*Somerset West Community
Health Centre*

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

May 2019

FAMILY & COMMUNITY HEALTH & HARM REDUCTION

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, HEALTH PROMOTION AND ADVOCACY

YET KEEN'S WALK-A-THON FUNDRAISER

Yet Keen's first walkathon is going to be held on May 29! We have over 40 seniors registered for the walk. You can make a donation to support the event, here:

<https://www.canadahelps.org/en/dn/12742>

We received funding for 2019-2020 from the United Way! This support will enable us to continue to offer some outreach services to our seniors.

Did you know that Yet Keen has started a Ballroom Dancing group?



Above: Yet Keen Seniors participate in ballroom dancing on Thursdays!

ROCHESTER HEIGHTS AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM

The Community House has received funding to run a summer camp from July 2 to August 9. United Way has confirmed \$ 4,922 in funding for the Community House After School program. The After School program participants received a First Aid training specially designed for children 6 to 12.

ANTI-RACISM CONVERSATIONS

We have received funding from the United Way to continue our anti-racism work in the community! We have also submitted a funding application to the City of Ottawa's Recreation Funding, Youth at Risk Project Funding, to further enhance this project.

PEERS HELPING PEERS

The team is hosting a recognition event on May 24 to officially acknowledge the OTF Grow grant it received.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING ADVOCACY

Our Advocacy Committee met with the Public Policy Development branch of Emergency and Protective Services (EPS) to discuss the upcoming Rental Accommodations Regulations Study. The Study will provide the City of Ottawa with a detailed understanding of the local rental housing market and expert advice on key regulatory issues, including but not limited to: Rental Housing (incl. Landlord Regulation, Property Standards); Short-Term Rentals (e.g. Airbnb and FlipKey); Shared Accommodations (incl. Rooming Houses and Student Housing); and Hotel and Motels. The consultation period will begin this spring.

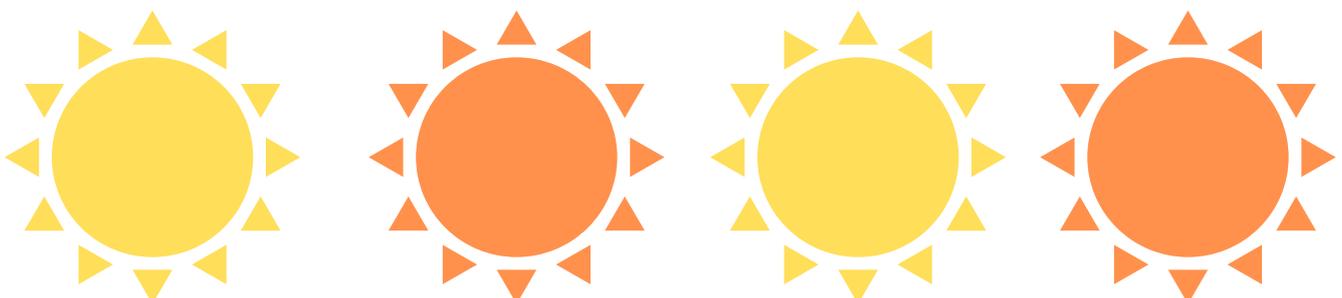


SWCHC organized a meeting with representatives of our local community associations, the Federation of Community Associations, the City for All Women Initiative, the Alliance to End Homelessness, CCOC and others to align our messaging in this early consultation phase for the new Official Plan with a specific focus on housing. Asks include specific actions on development charges, inclusionary zoning, and an equity and inclusion lens on the Official Plan.

CHILDREN & YOUTH

FUNDING

We received Canada Summer Jobs funding to provide the opportunity for a six week summer Day Camp for children 6-12 yrs. and Youth Leadership for 13-18 yrs. this summer.



HARM REDUCTION

SUPERVISED CONSUMPTION SERVICE (SCS)

We saw a 40% increase in client visits in the month of April, with more than 2,200 visits. Even more significantly, we saw a dramatic spike in overdoses. We reversed 45 overdoses in the month of April alone, compared to 47 in the period January-March. We have also had a number of clients having adverse reactions that are causing involuntary vocalizations and movements. We have consulted with other sites to create appropriate clinical responses to these adverse reactions and have also created a safe room where we can take people for their privacy and safety.

Given the increased volumes, we are introducing a second Mobile Greeter position who will be positioned primarily outside of the Centre during the summer. We are also in the process of hiring for the permanent Mobile Greeter position, now that we have funding in place for this role.

There has been an increase in donations to the community fridge and clients are very appreciative of the fresh food we're able to provide as a result.

ANONYMOUS HIV TESTING & HIV/AIDS PREVENTION

This month we facilitated an HIV anti-stigma game (created by Ottawa Public Health) with two youth groups. Our participants had a blast competing for prizes and showing off their knowledge of HIV/AIDS to their peers. We can't wait to play again!

Our anonymous HIV worker facilitated a conversation with the ACB community about access to culturally appropriate mental health services, as well as HIV and other STIBBI testing services in Ottawa at the ACB Health Zone.

In collaboration with NESI at SWCHC, MAX Ottawa and ViiV Healthcare, we had a table at the final edition of Spill the Tea. Spill the Tea engages guys into guys around safe(r) partying, harm reduction, and HIV education through the vehicle of Drag Queens and performances. The event took place April 25th, 2019 and had a great turnout. It also featured a meet and greet, as well as performances by Nina Bo'nina Brown from the hit TV series Ru Paul's Drag Race.

NEEDLE EXCHANGE & SAFER INHALATION (NESI)

NESI has been working hard to support the individuals displaced by a recent Rooming House fire in our community. While some clients have been temporarily re-housed, many are still seeking stable housing. The frequent rainfall in April has meant these individuals who are now sleeping rough or couch surfing, have struggled significantly. Outreach workers continue to support these clients in their search for housing.

We continue to support clients who are trying to keep up with their methadone/suboxone treatment, and are exploring options for a volunteer driver to support clients with access or mobility barriers to make the frequent pharmacy or doctor visits needed to stay on their medication.

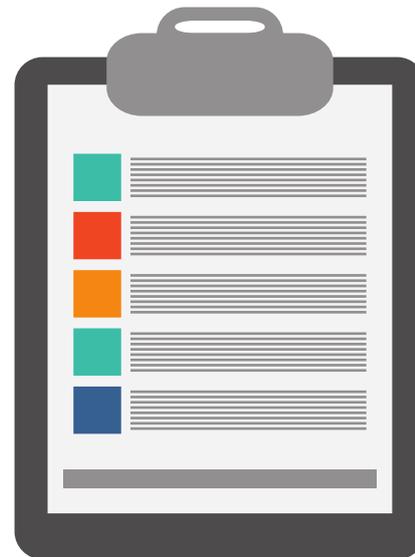
In line with the increase in clients the Harm Reduction Department has seen in April, the NESI program has launched weekly Peer Meetings to engage our clients in how to best support their needs during this busy time!

PRIMARY HEALTH CARE

A/C STUDY

SWCHC is a co-principal investigator and community partner with the A/C study. The study is funded by the Ontario HIV Treatment Network (OHTN), and looks at

- HIV prevalence;
- The individual and systemic factors that make people vulnerable to HIV; and
- Health system access and utilization among sub-Saharan Africa and Caribbean people in Toronto and Ottawa.



A/C Study is intended to support comprehensive, culturally appropriate, responsive interventions for improving health and well-being among African Caribbean Black (ACB) populations in Ontario. Understanding the lived experience and determinants of health of ACB people – including access to health services – is essential to tackling the root causes of HIV/AIDS and providing effective and specific HIV/AIDS services. The study will inform policy, programs and research to reduce HIV transmission and improve health.

OTTAWA NEWCOMER HEALTH CENTRE

The Ottawa Newcomer Health Centre convened a Leadership Collective in February and invited key partners and champions of our work. The collective has met regularly since November 2018 and through the discussions have sought to raise awareness of ONHC services along with looking for ways to increase capacity.

One challenge that we keep facing at the Ottawa Newcomer Clinic is the increase in the demand for our services and the limited capacity we have due to infrastructure and human resources. One solution to address space and access issues was to offer extended hours of operation for the Ottawa Newcomer Clinic. A proposal was put forth to the Champlain LHIN to consider increasing our base funding. We were successful in securing the increased funding! We will now have funding for additional staff to extend our hours of operation, and increase the number of clients that we serve at the Ottawa Newcomer Clinic!

OTTAWA COMMUNITY LUNG HEALTH PROGRAM

The lung health program continues to focus on client education. Two sessions were offered recently; one on the “Importance of Proper Nutrition in COPD” facilitated by the dietitian and the second presented by the lung health program’s physiotherapist on “Managing Breathlessness”.



These education sessions are in addition to the clients regular exercise sessions with a goal to improving self-management.

The Complex Respiratory Care Program has been working closely with the Ottawa Hospital with the successful transition of two complex respiratory patients from hospital back home. Several caregiver training sessions have been provided by the CRC team to both the families and the nursing agencies providing comprehensive individualized education specific to the client's needs. Training is initiated in the hospital and continues in the home.

The CRC team has also had the opportunity to attend the home ventilation network workshop at the Canadian Society of Respiratory Therapist Conference. This provides a networking opportunity to learn what other programs across the country are doing to support long term ventilation clients at home.

ONTARIO HEALTH TEAMS

Our health care system is at the cusp of a significant change as the work advances to establish Ontario Health Teams (OHT) as the new model to integrate care to improve the client experience and client outcomes while ensuring maximum value of resources.

These teams will ultimately be responsible for delivering more integrated care for clients, understanding their health care history, directly connecting them to the different types of care they need, and helping 24/7 in navigating the health care system.

The Ottawa CHC Collaborative is facilitating the development of an Ottawa OHT with a strong community foundation of primary health care and social services that would partner with hospitals and providers in the health sector.

The Ottawa OHT has completed the readiness assessment process to be an early adopter for an Ottawa-based OHT that is grounded in the community and partnered with hospitals and other health and social sector partners.

