

## **Executive Director's Report February 2017**

### **PHC Client Becomes a Canadian Citizen**

One of Laura Kollenberg's (Nurse Practitioner) clients recently became a Canadian Citizen. The client suffers from severe mobility issues and was having difficulty getting through the requirements for testing and speaking the oath. Thanks to intervention and advocacy by Laura, with assistance from Dr. Megan Williams and some of our Medical Office Assistants, the client was able to discuss the content of the test with a staff member from Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada and now a judge will come to his home to deliver the oath. This client has lived in Canada for more than twenty years but, because of his disability, had all but given up on getting citizenship in the country he has come to love.

### **Lung Health Program**

The LHIN has confirmed in writing that SWCHC has been provided the funding for the Long Term Ventilation Program mentioned in last month's board report. For Fiscal 2016-17 SWCHC will receive funding in the amount of \$60,000 to support the development of a training manual for clients and caregivers. For Fiscal 2017-18 funding in the amount of \$180,000 will support the hiring of 1.5 Respiratory Therapists to deliver the program to clients and caregivers and provide home visits, as well as some administrative and management time. Excellent work done by our Lung Health Program Manager, Michelle Maynard.

### **Obstetrical Services (OB) Retreat**

On February 2, 2017, the OB physicians at SWCHC, along with key staff, spent a morning reviewing perinatal services at SWCHC and how we might organize them better to increase efficiency with limited supports available. Since the opening of Rosemount Branch it has been difficult for the Lactation Consultant (LC) to appropriately support the needs of both sites. The group will work on scheduling and the grouping of OB appointments at the Eccles Branch across five days per week with evening access as well. This will allow us to organize LC support at one site. Many of our OB clients come to us as Non-insured, referred by other community physicians and CHCs without OB services. 45 of the 139 clients currently on our list are Non-insured.

### **Dental Stakeholder Meeting**

Merry Cardinal, Director of Primary Care attended a Dental Stakeholder meeting on Feb 8. The group consisted of staff from Ottawa Public Health's Dental Program (Dentists and Hygienists) as well as OPH Managers, Pediatric and Adult Community Dentists and representatives from various Dental associations. The group is passionate about expanding dental services to our most vulnerable citizens. After the meeting Merry reached out to the Dental Screening Program to inquire about a possible pilot with OPH around the application of fluoride varnish for children seen in our Primary Care setting. OPH is willing and would provide supplies, training and ongoing support.

### **New Arts Programming**

The Arts Council is running a 10 week arts program within our children's programming at The Family Shelter. Arts Council works with the community to support, promote and develop the vitality of the arts in Ottawa. Over the coming weeks participants will be focusing on clay as a medium to inspire and promote creativity through sculpting.

## **New Youth Leadership Programming**

A formalized partnership with Christie Lake Kids will allow for LEADERS IN TRAINING (L.I.T.) for youth 14-15 yrs old to take place out of our Rosemount Branch every Tuesday evening. This is an engaging and comprehensive long-term youth leadership program designed to: develop skills that promote teamwork, communication, listening skills and conflict resolution; developing knowledge that fosters advanced leadership principles, lesson planning and group dynamics, as well as strategies for behaviour modification and program management for leading children and youth.

## **Yet Keen Seniors Program**

Yet Keen's member participation rate in January was relatively low due to the cold winter weather. There were cancellations of some classes because some senior instructors could not make it to the Centre. However, we still had a consistent daily attendance rate of 40 to 50 members who dropped in this month. Our first special event of 2017 was the celebration of the year of Rooster on Feb 2<sup>nd</sup> at the oriental Chu Shing restaurant.

## **Community Development (CD)**

SWCHC has been helping to build our knowledge and understanding of basic income policy in order to contribute to the consultation process for a Basic Income pilot in Ontario. An in-person consultation session was held in Ottawa on January 24, 2017 and the CD Network developed key messages for this consultation which was also submitted to the province by email. The province will be announcing the pilot details in the spring of 2017.

## **Community Health Promotion/ Rochester Heights Community House**

The Community House and Community Development Framework (CDF) staff hosted a very successful Open Community Traffic Forum on January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2017. City Councillor Catherine McKenney introduced the community to the consultants, SANTEC, that were investigating the traffic problems at Rochester St and Gladstone St intersection. Over 35 community members and community partners attended the meeting to hear the recommendations and provide input/feedback. Catherine McKenney's office is to follow-up about the changes within the next month. The CDF provided 2 hours of child-minding and Catherine McKenney's office provided food for the event to ensure it was barrier free to all who were interested in attending.

## **Ottawa Community Immigrant Services Organization (OCISO) Settlement Services Families First (FF) Program**

Assistance and guidance were provided to a new client regarding his plan to sponsor a friend to come to Canada as a permanent resident. The program at SWCHC has received one new referral during this reporting period and has received a total of 26 referrals since the program began at SWCHC in October 2015.

## **Community Development & HIV Health Initiative: African Caribbean and Black Community**

The African Caribbean and Black Community Development and HIV Health Initiative continued to engage partners and leaders of the ACB community. The program participated in a number of partnership and network meetings such as Black History Month Ottawa planning meetings to launch the Black History month in Ottawa. We also partnered with YMCA-YWCA and African

Canadian Association of Ottawa and have been planning a Joint Black History month event which will take place on February 23, 2017. The program has also been collaborating with SEOCHC, Somali Centre for Family Services and Huntclub Community Association for a Canada @ 150 event planned for May 13, 2017.

### **HIV/ AIDS Prevention**

The ACB HIV prevention program participated in the annual Jaku Knobit job fair and displayed an information booth at Ottawa City Hall. We reached approximately 50 people with HIV prevention and testing information. In addition, we distributed 35 condoms and 40 brochures and postcards. In addition, we have been participating in the Black PRAISE research project. We held meetings with the research team to prepare for the third and final survey which will be administered to River Jordan Ministries congregation members. As well, we are organizing an event entitled "Unpacking our story" in collaboration with the University of Ottawa which will be held on February 16, 2017 as part of the Black history month.

### **Families First Program**

Stats: January and February

There were 25 Families referred to the Families First Program during this reporting period. Among those clients, forty-four were children under the age of fourteen and thirty-eight were Newcomers. This month, the program was able to place nineteen families in subsidized housing, two families in the private market, and four families in rent supplement units.

The City of Ottawa Shelter system has reported a spike in Burundi families coming to shelters this month. As well, the Families First Team is beginning to work with families from Syria moving out of the Shelter who were originally on the Resettlement Assistance Program (RAP). Unfortunately they were not able to sustain their housing in the private market since they were no longer receiving financial support from the RAP Program.

### **NESI Program**

New peer workers have completed training in HIV, HEP C, Stigma and Drug Use. More training will follow in spring. The peers are beginning to work with us in the NESI room and in the Outreach Van. One of our long time peers is in the process of completing 100 hours of community service with NESI and staff are pleased to be able to offer him support.

### **Rochester Heights Community House**

The Ottawa School of Art participated in our Afterschool Program offering sculpture art classes for program participants. In addition, youth participated in the I Love to Skate Program and received skating lessons. As well, youth were involved in organizing and participating in field trips to Winterlude and Fun Haven.

Prepared by: N. Cloutier  
February 22, 2017

