

# Executive Director's Report - March 2017

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## Primary Health Care (PHC)

### Ottawa Public Health Dental Screening Program 2016

SWCHC continues its partnership with Ottawa Public Health to provide accessible dental screening. Clinics are held monthly at 55 Eccles Street. Due to the Refugee 613 response to provide dental screening and care to Syrian refugees, only 8 clinics were held in 2016. 111 dental screenings were done and 51% of the clients seen had dental findings. Those with dental findings are referred to community dietitians or the Algonquin College dental clinic. There were 38 fluoride application and 17 clients had their dentures cleaned.

## Children and Youth Services

### Mechanicsville Winter Carnival

Over 150 community members participated in the Mechanicsville Winter Carnival. Along with some of our Children and Youth staff, 10 youth supported this event by baking items for the bake sale table and assisting with children's activities.

### Sources of Strength

We have utilized this training and worked with 2 high schools (Notre Dame High School and Richard Pfaff Alternate School) to facilitate Sources of Strength (suicide prevention training). Over 60 youth were trained to become peer leaders. On-going support will be provided to both schools, as needed.

## Health Promotion and Community Services

### Yet Keen Seniors Program

Over 100 people participated in Yet Keen's Lunar New Year celebration event which was held on Feb 2, 2017. Five of our participants who are over the age of 90+ were honoured during this event. The Yet Keen Advisory Committee's first meeting of 2017 was held on Feb 24, 2017. The Committee agreed to make the integration of Cantonese and the Mandarin speaking members a priority this year because there has been a significant increase in Mandarin speaking members at Yet Keen. The Committee also decided to work on developing strategies to reach out to our members' second generation for service promotion and fundraising purposes.

### Rochester Heights Community House

Rochester Heights Community House (CH) is happy to announce that the CH Advisory Board has been reassembled and has begun planning events and contributing constructive feedback into new and existing programming. The CH Coordinator, Meagan and the Community Support Worker Shannon, have conducted community outreach to promote the CH Advisory Board. The first unofficial drop-in meeting was on Feb 24<sup>th</sup> where community members were invited to the CH for cake, coffee and learn what the CH has to offer. Many new and familiar faces came to meet the new staff, talk about our programs and services and learn about the CH Advisory Board. On March 1<sup>st</sup>, we had our first official CH Advisory Board meeting where residents came together to discuss what they believed was working at the CH and where we need improvement.

From this initial meeting, we discussed ways to reach isolated community members and ways to engage those who are not using the services available. The CH Advisory Board voted to spend some of the CH budget allocated to "adult events/programming" to take community members

out for dinner at the end of the month (with child care provided). This will be a strategy to connect with community members in a fun, friendly environment and also to have conversations about future CH programming. Another example of programming that residents wanted to see at the CH was free weekly bread giveaway. Monday, March 13<sup>th</sup> was the launch of this initiative. The CH received two bags full of bread from Bridgehead Coffee House and we had 13 families come to receive bread. When families come to receive the bread, CH staff use this opportunity to talk to families about additional programming we have that they might be interested in. This has proven to be very successful and we have registered people for our income tax clinic, vet clinics, after-school programming and March Break camp using this strategy.

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

Assistance and guidance was 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.

### **Ottawa Community Immigrant Services Organization (OCISO) Settlement Services**

During this reporting period, settlement services were offered to support clients to apply for permanent residence and citizenship, old age security, and to translate official documents. As well, the Settlement Worker provided consultation support to SWCHC staff for three clients who had immigration enquiries.

### **African Caribbean and Black Community**

February was a busy month for the ACB community development program. The program participated in several Black History Month events and activities. The program also organized a black history month event with YMCA and the African Canadian Association of Ottawa (ACAO). The event addressed issues of culture, equity and health of Ottawa's black community. Over 120 people attended the event which included community leaders, service providers, general public and people from academia. The program also participated in the Centre's accreditation process.

### **HIV/ AIDS Prevention**

We were involved in various Black History month activities during the month of February. We organized an event with the University of Ottawa which focused on celebrating diversity and highlighting research and community development initiatives taking place in the African, Caribbean and Black Community in Ottawa. Approximately 25 people attended the event. As well, we gave a presentation to all SWCHC staff at our general staff meeting about Black History Month.

### **NESI Program**

In the last month, NESI has been working hard to hold community consultations. Stan, Carl and Amy along with many other staff have hosted many community members to educate them and get feedback on our proposed Supervised Injection Service. Nasal Naloxone training was held in the NESI room with Ottawa Public Health and it was a full house. Many clients left with the nasal spray and many staff look forward to having access to it as well. NESI staff organized an International Women's Day breakfast for NESI clients' which was well attended. Waffles were enjoyed by everyone.

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