

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

June 2019

PRIMARY HEALTH CARE

ROOMING HOUSE OUTREACH

The Primary Health Care Outreach team kicked off the start of their annual Rooming House BBQs! These events allow residents to enjoy a healthy meal, and provide mutual support by introducing residents to primary care and social supports. These BBQs also bring residents together to create a positive community environment, strengthen social ties, and a create a sense of belonging.

A collaboration between our Nurse Practitioner and Community Health Worker is supporting the health and well-being of tenants in rooming homes. Our rooming house outreach over the last six months has been supporting residents admitted to the hospital to improve their health outcomes and transition them effectively back to their homes. In the past, many of these clients would choose to leave the hospital against medical advice for what were often life-threatening conditions. Some strategies have been to visit them in the hospital frequently, support TV rentals, provide accompaniment to the emergency room, and ensure that one of our Nurse Practitioners is identified as the primary care provider upon discharge. As a result of these effort, many clients have been successfully admitted and treated for conditions like septic joints, necrotic pneumonia, and sepsis.

OTTAWA NEWCOMER HEALTH CENTRE

ALLIANCE CONFERENCE

ONHC has been chosen as a location for a site tour during the Community Health Connections 2019 Conference. On June 12th, we are expecting 40 conference participants from across Canada to come and get a glimpse what we have to offer. The manager of ONHC will also be presenting at the conference on the following topic: Federal investment in supports for vulnerable newcomers.



ANNUAL HEALTH FAIR

Our annual health fair, in collaboration with University of Ottawa medical students, was a big hit yet again this year! We had over 10 different agencies that participated and welcomed over 150 individuals. Our Ottawa Language Access interpreters ensured that language support was available throughout the event for anyone who requested it. We had community members from various cultures volunteer their time to make the event a great success.



OTTAWA COMMUNITY LUNG HEALTH PROGRAM

This month, our Lung Health team collaborated with our Harm Reduction Team to bring lung health services to at-risk harm reduction clients at our Eccles location. Many of the clients are unable to attend regularly scheduled clinics, so a drop-in clinic was held on June 7th in the NESI room. Lung Health provided spirometry, education and treatment recommendations for clients based on evidence-based guidelines. Clients with identified lung disease were connected with the Nurse Practitioner who is able provide medical management.

FAMILY, COMMUNITY HEALTH AND HARM REDUCTION

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, HEALTH PROMOTION, AND ADVOCACY

HOUSING ADVOCACY

The City's Rental Accommodations Study is holding consultation sessions across the city. A session on rooming houses was held at 55 Eccles in early June. Our staff, Board members, and community members have been actively engaged in providing feedback. There will be future consultations on a Policy Options paper, and on the specific recommendations of the study, before it is presented to Council. We organized a coordinated response on the housing discussion paper for the new Official Plan process. Feedback for this first phase of public engagement is due on June 30.

WE CALL FOR A VISION ZERO POLICY

Vision Zero is an initiative led by the Healthy Transportation Coalition to call on the City to make immediate changes to protect vulnerable road users. We signed a Joint Letter to City Council to support this initiative, which calls for Council to adopt a strong Vision Zero policy, and dedicate the \$57-million federal gas tax transfer to making our cycling network safe.

ANTI-RACISM ANTI-OPPRESSION

We have signed on as a member of United Against Hate & Violence, an initiative led by the United Way of Ottawa.

PEERS HELPING PEERS

On May 24th, the Peers Helping Peers program hosted a recognition event for our funder – the Ontario Trillium Foundation. The event was to acknowledge the Trillium grant and celebrate our first successful year in the project. MPP Joel Harden was there to make a few remarks and presented us with a plaque on behalf of Trillium. Two peers shared their experience with the program and a video presentation provided a few highlights from the past year. Peer workers in Mechanicsville have started a new peer-led Community Kitchen.



VOLUNTEERS, STUDENTS AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

We continue to build our connections with other organizations! In May, our Coordinator of Volunteers, Students and Community Engagement met with volunteer coordinators from Bruce House and Cornerstone to learn about partner programs and share practices.

YOUTH PROGRAMS IN ROCHESTER HEIGHTS

The Rochester Heights Community House has received funding from the City of Ottawa Recreational Fund to run a 36-week youth program starting in September 2019.

YET KEEN WALKATHON

Yet Keen's first walkathon was held at the Britannia Park on May 29! Approximately 80 participants joined the walk. The event raised an astounding \$10,000 to support Yet Keen programs.



HARM REDUCTION

ANONYMOUS HIV TESTING & HIV/AIDS PREVENTION

Our ACB HIV Prevention Strategy Worker attended a meeting with the A/C Study team at the University of Ottawa to discuss recruitment strategies for a research project they are undertaking. Additionally, they had the chance to participate in a workshop on how to assist clients with legal troubles, which provided useful information on supporting people living with HIV who are facing criminalization. Our Anonymous Testing worker did on-site testing at ODAWA's Pow Wow event. This is an annual event put on by the ODAWA Native Friendship Centre. This opportunity was made possible by a partnership formed with the Ontario Aboriginal HIV/AIDS Strategy.

NEEDLE EXCHANGE/SAFER INHALATION (NESI)

This month, the team hosted a peer meeting to address concerns that have been flagged by staff and community members regarding the increase in the volume of clients we are seeing. They were able to brainstorm solutions and offer ideas about how to create a safe and welcoming environment for everyone.

BUILDING A WELCOMING SPACE FOR THE INDIGENOUS COMMUNITY

The harm reduction team has been working closely with three Indigenous elders to help us build a more welcoming space for Indigenous staff and clients within the organization. To date we've organized two feasts, one to welcome the elders to our organization and the second to share teachings on Indigenous medicines. Following the second session, NESI clients and staff planted a medicine garden on the third floor patio of our Eccles building, which includes sage, cedar, sweet-grass and tobacco. Clients have already started to visit the garden and access the medicines growing there.

OPIOID AGONIST TREATMENT WRAPAROUND SERVICES

We have received core LHIN funding to launch an Opioid Agonist Treatment Wraparound Service, providing high support services to clients of the Supervised Consumption Service who want to access replacement therapies such as Methadone or Suboxone. This service was successfully piloted during the end of 2018-2019 4th quarter, and we are eager to get this permanent service up and running. It will include a Team Lead/Harm Reduction Worker, Nurse Practitioners, and Community Workers.

SUPERVISED CONSUMPTION SERVICE

In April and May we devoted efforts to adjusting our practice to accommodate increased volumes, as well as made space adjustments both indoors and outdoors. Our strategy has been to pilot a back courtyard & smoking area for clients. We have been connecting with our neighbours to discuss the trends we are seeing in the service.

