

**Minutes
Etobicoke/York Local Health Committee**

Date: Wednesday November 9, 2005
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Location: Etobicoke Civic Centre 399 The West Mall (Member's Lounge)

Present: Dennis Brooks, Irene Jones, Wangari Muriuki, Mark Nakamara, Marek Zarkowski, Marvin Temes

Staff: Dr. Hazel Stewart (Director), Audrey Egan (CHO), Madalaine Asta (minutes)

Regrets: Linda Coltman, Rhonda Roffey (Chair), Paul Das

1.0 Review of Agenda

In absence of Rhonda Roffey Wangari Muriuki chaired the meeting.
The agenda was approved.

2.0 Minutes of last meeting

Minutes were approved.

3.0 Updates from Action Items of Last Meeting

3.1 Detox Facilities

ACTION:

- 1) LHC would like this issue referred to Board of Health for linkage to the "Mayor's Committee for Safe Neighborhoods".
- 2) Audrey Egan will provide further updates at next meeting and will network with other communities for more information.
- 3) Audrey Egan will give further updates about the recommendations from the Drug Strategy Meeting that took place on October 14, 2005.

3.2 Eviction/Housing

Audrey Egan gave a report.

LHC Members expressed interest in inviting a guest speaker from The Toronto Housing Association for a 20 minute presentation to talk about Safety, Youth Issues, Lack of Recreation Facilities, Pest Control etc.

ACTION: D. Brooks will make arrangements.

3.3 New Members Recruitment

Audrey Egan gave a report about the information she obtained from West Public Health Program Managers and will network with Local Health Networks Coalitions and other Groups.

D. Brooks suggested calling "Braeburn" (located in the north end of Etobicoke).

ACTION: Audrey Egan will follow-up.

3.4 Dental Update – Hazel Stewart

Hazel gave a verbal presentation about the status of free public dental care available to residents of the City of Toronto. The following is a brief synopsis:

Dental treatment services is not part of Medicare. It is therefore a discretionary service. In Ontario, the provincial government has a program for Children In Need of Treatment (CINOT) and for children 0-18 yrs in families on social assistance. Toronto offers emergency dental services for adults on social assistance.

The school dental treatment program started in 1911. There are 13 dental clinics offering free dental services operating throughout the South, East and West areas of the City of

Toronto. In North York, dental treatment services are still provided in school clinics. Eligibility is determined based on two factors, 1) the family must not be able to afford private dental care and must not be on social assistance 2) must reside in the City of Toronto. In addition seniors must declare that their earnings are \$16,500 or less per year if single and \$25,000 for couples.

Residents who are 18 to 64 years of age do not qualify for The City's dental program. Previously residents were able to go to 2 hospital emergency rooms in the City for emergency dental treatment but since amalgamation those hospitals closed their dental clinics and no longer provide this service.

Low cost dental care, provided by students under supervision, is available at George Brown College of Dental Hygiene and Denture Therapy and The University of Toronto, Faculty of Dentistry.

Hazel Stewart also reported about the Toronto Oral Health Coalition which was formed in 2000 and talked about the report written by this group with regards to how homeless and clients from some social and health service agencies are affected by the lack of access to dental care. The Toronto Oral Health Coalition is also working on a petition and a proposal to lobby the Province to get access to dental care for low income, and under employed residents of this City. The Coalition is going to recommend that dental services be included in the list of health services offered by Community Health Centers

Hazel Stewart reported that a motion that dental care be included in Medicare was passed at last year's Board of Health.

The Scarborough Dental Working Group has recently set up a free emergency Dental Clinic for low and no income residents of Toronto who do not have dental insurance and are not eligible for social assistance This clinic is located at 3000 Lawrence Ave East and dental care is provided by volunteer dentists. The dental equipment was purchased using a grant from The City of Toronto, Ontario Works initiative fund.

It is important to recognize that recent research is showing that there is an association between poor oral health and heart and lung diseases, stomach illnesses, low birth weight etc LHC Members all agreed that Dental Care Clinics should be operating out of Community

Health Centres.

ACTION: LHC would like Board of Health to advocate that Basic Dental Care be included in Medicare.

3.4 City-wide LHC Meeting with Ministry of Health Promotion

Audrey reported that Rhonda Roffey spoke with the 3 LHC Chairs about inviting a speaker from the Ministry of Health Promotion to attend a City-Wide LHC meeting on November 9th, 2005. The meeting did not take place since the Ministry did not respond in time to finalize meeting plans.

4.0 Other Business

3.1 Declaration of Conflict of Interest

Irene Jones would like to promote members on this committee declare conflicts of interest at LHC meetings and to include in the LHC Terms of Reference.

ACTION: Hazel will discuss this issue with Chair Rhonda Roffey and also refer same to DMT and the Medical Officer of Health.

4.2 Welfare

ACTION: Chair will be asked to inform Board of Health that LHC supports the increase of welfare payments to more acceptable standards.

4.3 Toronto Health Profiles

LHC is in favour of asking Diane Patychuk to attend the March LHC meeting to talk about the report. There was a discussion about also inviting community agencies to attend.

4.4 Speakers for December Meeting

ACTION: Dennis Brooks and Linda Coltman will pursue this issue and report to the committee.

5.0 Next Meeting

Date: December 7, 2005

First meeting in the new year will be January 11, 2006

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Location: 399 The West Mall (Member's Lounge)

6.0 ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.