

- Future talks are planned with the Chief Dental Officer to discuss a proposed comprehensive survey of the Dental Health status of Canadian citizens.
- The Toronto Health Coalition advocated for a survey of the homeless in Toronto and will use this information to make it harder for the Federal government to ignore the plight of the homeless.
- A proposal was made to the City for funding for volunteer dentist time at clinics throughout the city. The Board of Health supported this but budget pressures reduced the amount received. This amount is split amongst 4 clinics to provide 1 day per week of urgent dental care.
- Looking into the future it may be that community health centres would be the location of choice and would deliver one stop shopping and care for clients with day care, recreation, social and dental services all provided on site.
- The combined efforts of the Toronto Oral Health Coalition, advocacy from groups such as the Toronto/East York Local Health Committee, the Board of Health and community groups, will hopefully result in some forward progress on these issues.

The committee responded with great interest and concern to Dr. Stewart's presentation and had many comments and suggestions. Fiona requested Dr. Stewart keep this committee updated, and that the committee is always available and willing to advocate on behalf of dental health issues.

3.0 NEW BUSINESS

3.1 Alcohol and Chronic Diseases Conference

Fiona attended this conference sponsored by the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH). Some of the topics discussed were:

- Alcohol is recognized as a cause/source of disease
- Links between alcohol consumption and disease
- Young girls and the links between binge drinking and breast cancer
- Impact of advertising and alcohol consumption – tobacco advertising is not allowed, although sponsorship of large events by beer and alcohol companies is permitted.
- Impact of alcohol and links to chronic disease just starting to gain momentum.

3.2 Implication of Consumer Advertising and Health

- The Board of Health meeting next Monday around the issue of Trans Fat. Discussion will centre around the removal of trans fat from manufactured food. Trans Fat has no nutritional value and is added to promote longer shelf life. There is high profit and low nutrition in foods high in Trans Fat. Advertising to children and the focus on foods high in Trans Fat will also be a priority.

3.3 Board of Health

- Motion from John Filion regarding “New Toronto Street Food”. Marvin suggested that the same regulations that apply to full restaurant service must also apply to Street Vendors.
- Communicable Diseases in Toronto 2005
As this report will not be presented in depth it was suggested that Dr. Rita Shahin, Associate Medical Officer of Health – Communicable Disease Control, be invited to the next meeting to speak regarding HIV/AIDS and STI statistics and other items of LHC interest.

4.0 Other Business:

- 4.1 Marvin suggested that Fiona talk to John Filion about the possibility of interested LHC members sitting on committees where they have interest and expertise, particularly with respect to the street vendor issue.
- 4.2 Roman spoke regarding interest in the intergovernmental panel on climate change, planning for anticipated heat waves, etc. Liz will check with our EPO office to see if a staff member could attend a future LHC meeting to address these issues.
- 4.3 Brian reminded members that the LHC meeting on May 10 will be held at 6:00 p.m. in the Members’ Lounge at the North York Civic Centre and will focus entirely on the LHC Evaluation Report.
- 4.4 Fiona announced that Hing Tse had forwarded her resignation from this committee and that it had been accepted with regret.

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, June 5, 2007
277 Victoria Street
Room 504
6:00 p.m.

:jg

