

Summary of SOHC Year in Review - November 2015 - December 2016

Princeton Health Care Steering Committee

- 12 monthly meetings (no meeting in August, 2016)
- Edward Staples, SOHC President, resigns his position on the Steering Committee as of June
- Keith Olsen becomes the SOHC representative on the Steering Committee

South Okanagan Similkameen Healthcare Community Coalition

- the Community Coalition involves stakeholders from Princeton, Keremeos, Oliver, Osoyoos, First Nations, and Interior Health
- it functions as an advisory group to the Developing Sustainable Rural Practice Communities project, whose goal is to combine existing strengths and resources to establish sustainable and patient focused healthcare in the SOS Rural Corridor
- the Coalition has identified the need to collaboratively develop four community and practice protocols that focus on:
 - recruitment and retention of healthcare professionals
 - chronic pain management
 - community resource access
 - after hours care
- Keith Olsen has taken a leadership role in the development of a chronic pain management plan for the Coalition

Princeton Health Care Community Consultation

- in February, SOHC held the second Health Care Community Consultation as a followup to the first one held in January, 2013
 - over 40 community representatives participate in the event
 - the results are compiled, put into a report and released to the public
 - based on issues and concerns identified by the community, SOHC develops its goals for the coming year

Community Health Care Education

- in response to a need identified in the Community Consultation, SOHC is working to provide the community with information about programs and services that are available in our community
 - Community Health Care Information brochure - this project is being undertaken in cooperation with the Similkameen Spotlight newspaper
 - Health Care Workshops
 - the first in a series of workshops was presented in November on the topic of Lyme Disease
 - the second workshop will be held on March 8 at Riverside on the topic of Pain Management

Research Projects

- *Similkameen Mental Health Project: Services and Supports for Adults 50 and Over Mental Health for Older Adults* - Dr. Nelly Oelke and her research team (UBCO) receive funding to expand the Mental Health Project to include communities in the Similkameen. SOHC meets twice with research team to discuss Princeton's involvement in the project.
- *The Entrepreneurial Activities of Citizen-Led Coalitions in Supporting Rural Older Adults in Healthcare* - Dr. Kathy Rush and her research team (UBCO, TRU and IH) meet with SOHC as part of their survey of citizen-led health care coalitions across the province. Results of the survey are shared in meetings and webinar presentations.

BC Health Coalition

- continued active membership in the BCHC in support of their goals and campaigns
- at the BCHC Annual General Meeting in May, Edward Staples elected as a Director to the BCHC Board
- Nienke Klaver asked to be on the BCHC Finance Working Group
- in May, Edward Staples made a presentation to the Select Standing Committee on Health at the BC Legislature Building. Presentation focuses on both SOHC and BCHC position on important current healthcare issues
- Provincial Election Campaign
 - Boundary Similkameen identified as a target riding by the BCHC Elections Working Group - Keith Olsen, Nienke Klaver, and Edward Staples agree to lead the campaign to educate the public on important health care issues in the May, 2017 election
 - top 5 priorities for the campaign:
 - public solutions to wait times
 - MSP fees
 - improved seniors care (extended care and home support)
 - primary care for all
 - poverty reduction plan
- monitoring and support for the Cambie Clinic case being heard in BC Supreme Court

Health Care Traveling Roadshow

- Nienke Klaver (SOHC Secretary) arranges a visit by the Health Care Traveling Roadshow in May
 - presentations made at Merritt Secondary School, Princeton Secondary, and Keremeos Secondary School
 - coordination of the program in all three communities includes:
 - social and recreational programs
 - tours of health care facilities
 - attendance at health care meetings including the monthly meeting of the Princeton Healthcare Steering Committee
 - dinners provided by the mayors

Rural Healthcare Research Conference

- in April, Lynn Wells and Bill Day attend the Rural Health Services Research Network Conference in Kamloops. Bill Day participates in a joint presentation on the contribution of SOHC to the improvement of healthcare services in Princeton and its potential for other communities
- contacts are made with leaders of other citizen-led healthcare organizations with the goal of forging a provincial alliance of people working to improve healthcare in rural BC

Other Health Care Issues and Concerns

- SOHC prepares a position paper on the Trans Pacific Partnership and its affect on health care delivery
- in response to a plan to open new Pay for Plasma clinics in Canada, SOHC prepares an Op Ed entitled *Do Blood and Money Mix?*, researched and written by Bill Day. Nienke Klaver, Bill Day and Edward Staples attend a public forum on the Pay for Plasma issue held in Abbotsford in May
- SOHC makes a submission to the Investment Review Commission regarding the Anbang Insurance Group takeover bid of Retirement Concepts, owner and operator of 21 long term care facilities in BC

Other Affiliations:

- Interior Health - Susan Brown, Integrated Care Coordinator for South Okanagan Similkameen
- Princeton Interagency Group
- Princeton Mental Health Focus Group - participation in discussions regarding future plans for mental health services in our community
- UBC Okanagan - Dr. Barbara Pesut
- Rural Health Services Research Network of BC - research grant support and BC Rural Research Conference
- Okanagan Similkameen Healthy Living Coalition - in March, Keith Olsen attends OSHLC Healthy Living Fair in Penticton
- Dan Albas, MP; Jackie Tegart, MLA; Linda Larson, MLA under new riding boundaries - federal and provincial contacts
- Princeton Healthcare Sustainability Society - in support of recruitment and retention of family physicians for Princeton and Area