

Summary of SOHC Year in Review - January 2017 - January 2018

Princeton Health Care Steering Committee

- SOHC Executive members have taken turns attending the monthly PHCSC meetings
- the Committee continues to work on items in its Action Plan
- at the suggestion of our practitioners, the SC has added Primary Healthcare Reform as an action item; the Princeton Health Centre Team is working with the South Okanagan Division of Family Practice in the implementation of the Patient Medical Home model
- after a short hiatus, Edward Staples, SOHC President, resumed his position on the PHCSC

South Okanagan Similkameen Community Healthcare Coalition

- SOHC continues its involvement in the SOS Community Healthcare Coalition
- the Coalition comprises elected officials, healthcare practitioners, healthcare administrators and community representatives providing advice and direction to the Developing Sustainable Rural Practice Communities project. The goal of the project is to combine existing strengths and resources to establish sustainable and patient focused healthcare in the SOS rural corridor

British Columbia Rural Health Network

- after many years of discussion, rural healthcare advocacy organizations have developed a formal relationship and begun working together for the improvement of healthcare services for rural British Columbians
- the BCRHN was launched on December 1, 2017 with membership from community organizations in Ashcroft, Nelson, Sicamous, South Shuswap, Trail, and Princeton
- Edward Staples accepted the position of BCRHN Lead
- there is growing interest in the Network and two communities, Slocan Valley and Hornby/Denman Islands joined the Network on January 19
- the Rural Coordination Centre of BC (RCCbc) and the BC Health Coalition (BCHC) have expressed an interest in having “a seat at the table”; the RCCbc has pledged ongoing administrative and financial support and the BCHC is interested in working collaboratively on issues of mutual interest
- membership is open to any organization that supports the goals and vision of the BCRHN

Community Health Care Education

- in response to a need identified in the Community Consultation, SOHC has organized two healthcare workshops. The first was on Lyme Disease and the second on Chronic Pain Management. We are considering Nutrition as the topic for our next workshop.
- SOHC will be launching the Princeton and District Health Directory in the very near future. The information in the Directory has been reviewed and approved by the Princeton Health Care Steering Committee. A suitable printer is being investigated.

SOHC would like to thank the Princeton Rotary Club for their generous donation in support of this project.

Recruitment and Retention

- SOHC collaborated with our local practitioners in the development of promotional materials that includes a set of display banners, a promotional booklet, and postcards that show the natural beauty of our area
- Nienke Klaver and Ed Staples attended the Rural Locum Conference (Nanaimo, May 2017) and the UBC Job Fair (Vancouver, June 2017) to promote Princeton and encourage potential recruits to join our team of healthcare professionals
- SOHC continues its support of the Love a Locum program

Research Projects

- April 26 - SOHC attended a meeting in Kelowna where Kathy Rush (UBCO) and Betty Brown (IH) led discussions research conducted on *The Entrepreneurial Activities of Citizen-Led Coalitions in Supporting Rural Older Adults in Healthcare*

BC Health Coalition

- continued active membership in the BCHC in support of their goals and campaigns
- at the BCHC Annual General Meeting in October, Edward Staples was re-elected a Director on the BCHC Board
- Nienke Klaver continues her volunteer work on the BCHC Finance Working Group
- at the suggestion of Edward Staples, the BCHC recently formed a Primary Health Care Reform Working Group
- Cambie Clinic case continues in BC Supreme Court; there have been several delays resulting from the plaintiff (Brian Day and Associates) calling extra witnesses and challenging new evidence presented by the defendants (BC Minister of Health and others); the case is expected to reopen in April and is expected to continue throughout 2018
- the BCHC receives all of its financial support from private donations. In its annual fund raising drive, the Coalition is requesting support from its member organizations and private individuals; donations can be made on the BCHC website at www.bchealthcoalition.ca/donate
- Bill Day, Nienke Klaver and Ed Staples attended the BCHC 2017 Conference held in Vancouver in October. Bill volunteered as a conference organizer and moderated several of the workshops. Ed and Nienke gave a workshop on how to organize a Community Consultation. And Ed was a member of a panel that discussed primary healthcare reform.

Regional Alliance for Rural Health

- on June 10 SOHC attended the inaugural meeting of the Regional Alliance for Rural Health at the Nicola Valley Institute of Technology in Merritt
- although SOHC agreed with the organization's goal of establishing a regional alliance for health applied and academic research collaboration, it was decided that SOHC would not become an active member at this time

City of Merritt Healthcare Community Consultation

- at the request of the Merritt City Council, SOHC organized and facilitated a Healthcare Community Consultation in Merritt
- the Consultation was held on June 15 with support from the Ashcroft Health and Wellness Action Coalition and Dr. Barbara Pesut and her team of research assistants from UBC Okanagan
- the City of Merritt will be using the information generated by the Consultation to address healthcare issues and concerns in their community

Other Events

- on April 18, Bill Day attended the Trans-Pacific Partnership Public Consultation in Richmond. The consultation was organized by the House of Commons Standing Committee on International Trade with the purpose of hearing the views of Canadians on this agreement. Following the consultation, Bill prepared a position paper that outlined SOHC's concerns as they relate to the potential negative impact of the agreement on healthcare in Canada. Our paper was submitted to the Committee.
- on May 25, SOHC made a presentation at the regional meeting of the Old Age Pensioners Organization; the Princeton chapter of the OAPO has been a strong supporter of SOHC and has made annual donations to our organization
- the *Art for Health* project installed two new murals at Princeton General Hospital. Merrilyn Huycke's depiction of a rural street scene is now displayed in the entryway at PGH and Ed Staples' ceramic tile mural, entitled *Emerge*, is displayed at the hospital nurse's station

Other Affiliations:

- Interior Health - Susan Brown, Integrated Care Coordinator for South Okanagan Similkameen
- Princeton Interagency Group
- Princeton and District Community Services Society - Connie Howe, Executive Director
- Princeton Family Services - Heather Ericksen, Executive Director
- Princeton Mental Health Focus Group - participation in discussions regarding future plans for mental health services in our community
- UBC Okanagan - Dr. Barbara Pesut, Dr. Kathy Rush, Dr. Nelly Oelke
- Rural Health Services Research Network of BC - research grant support and BC Rural Research Conference
- Colleen Fuller - BC Coalition of Community Health Centres (REACH)
- Kathy Copeman-Stewart - Chair of the Rural BC Division of Family Practice
- Rural Coordination Centre of BC - Dr. Stuart Johnson
- Dan Albas, MP; Linda Larson, MLA - federal and provincial contacts