

Hello Everyone:

The activities at our Manor Lane Community Clinic are progressing rapidly to increase access to health services in the North Hastings area. Staff: Our present staff complement includes one full time (FT) Family Physician, with Dr. McEnery continuing to act in the advisory capacity; one full time Nurse Practitioner; one full time RN; one part time Dietician and one part time Social Worker; plus a full time administrator, secretarial and reception staff. In addition we are partnering with (local) Loyalist College to have an RPN student finish her practical component with our Family Health Team, and a high school co-op student (till June) working with our RN to learn of educational aspects to nursing. (These 2 positions at no cost to us). Health Promotion Programs: 1). Emotional women's wellness group started on February 20 with 8 women in the starting group. With special speakers the program will run for 6 weeks through the Crisis Intervention worker. 2). Our RN speaks to a women's group at Cloud 9 this week on women's health issues, taking the co-op student with her to introduce her to this component of nursing. 3). A survey is ready to distribute to students at the senior elementary school with principal and parent council permission), to evaluate the health needs of 13-15 year olds. Currently no such program is offered through the Public Health system; the school is most willing to have us come in to introduce the survey and perhaps develop information to add to their health courses. 4). Our Dietician has been promoting nutrition and healthy eating to various community groups. The "Take 5" promotion was successfully launched recently at a Bancroft Hawks hockey game, with our RN dressed in an enticing broccoli costume! The Dietician is also doing "super shopping" tours in grocery stores to teach healthy shopping selections. 5). We held a public "Flu" clinic last fall. All of these programs have been well received. Special Services at our FHT: 1). The Crisis Intervention Centre (from Belleville) comes 4-5 times a month seeing about 25 patients each month. 2). A visiting Psychiatrist (Belleville) comes twice a month seeing about 40 patients each month. 3). Cardiologists Dr. Hughes and Dr. Jurt (Peterborough) operate a Vascular Network Clinic in our facility on a by-weekly basis. With referrals from local doctors, the Vascular Network offers testing/monitoring services to local patients, saving them a trip out of town to access these necessary procedures. In conjunction with the Bancroft FHT we embarked on a fundraising effort in the community to secure our joint commitment to purchase a (\$10,000.00) defibrillator, necessary to the operation of the Vascular Network. We are happy to report that with community donations, the defibrillator is almost paid for. Last visit, Dr. Hughes saw 105 patients, plus conducted 10 Echocardiograms. 4). On April 13th. Dr. Graham Gibb, surgeon specializing in colon-rectal screening is gastroenterologist is schedule to see local referral patients. The cost of these specialist services is minimal to us; our cost consists mainly of staff support. Numbers of patients seen on a weekly basis: Apart from patients seen by specialists in our facility, our family physician sees approximately 85 patients weekly; the NP 75 patients weekly; PT Dietician sees 20 patients weekly; PT Social Worker (1day per week), sees 6 patients weekly. Patient wait time to see the Dietician or Social Worker at present is: one month.

Our FHT continues to welcome patients without a family doctor. Our resident physician has rostered over 600 patients to date. In an attempt to ease the volume in the hospital

ER, we currently operate a walk-in clinic most days from 3 to 4p.m. No appointment is necessary, but we advertise to please call ahead to make sure the walk-in clinic is operating that day. This time slot is reserved for registered North Hastings FHT patients only – with problems requiring immediate care. Chronic ongoing problems and medication refills still require booked appointments.

We are very pleased with the accomplishments of our first year of full FHT operations. Currently, we are preparing a second year budget for the Ministry of Health. We are considering a prospect for hiring a second Nurse Practitioner and we are working on 3-4 prospects to acquire another family doctor. We are extremely proud of the work of our Administrator, Lynne Poff, and the competent team she has put together to serve the health needs in our community. I apologize for not updating you sooner, but since we are growing by leaps and bounds, each week seems to bring a new development. We look forward to meeting Ms. Martineau on March 7th. and I trust this update will help to acquaint her with the main activities of our North Hastings Family Health Team. We are grateful for your past assistance, and look forward to exploring new ideas to improve access to healthcare in North Hastings,

Kind regards,

Lorraine Fell, Co-Chair, North Hastings Family Health Team