

Report to Council – North Renfrew Integrated Community Services Council Meeting – May 13, 2014

On May 2nd we received an invitation to attend this meeting to learn more about the ICSC and send an elected representative to join by formal appointment by HCM council. I accepted this invitation.

Background of ICSC

Mission Statement - The council's purpose is to promote quality of life for North Renfrew residents by identifying and responding to the various health and social needs of individuals and families.

We all received the Terms of Reference for the ICSC and I will outline those in particular that I think would be of direct interest to our community.

The member organizations are the DRDH, NRFHT, NRLTC, NRFS, NRCDHU, CCAC, FEN, DRAFB, elected representatives of local municipalities, Paramedics, Ministerial Association, Healthy Communities Partnership and local Schools.

Six objectives of the ICSC are listed in the Terms of Reference and all equally important. In my opinion, 3 of those objectives would be of particular interest to HCM council:

- identify opportunities for partnership and collaboration in service delivery
- actively encourage and promote regular communication between service providers and the community
- advocate on behalf of the community and liaise with various agencies regarding new services, funding and program development

Meeting Discussions

Shawna Babcock of KidActive presented a new initiative called the Renfrew Community Study that will be collecting data to “map” our communities. The ICSC supports this study and will be looking for input from the general population through 2.5 hour engagement sessions in various locations throughout the county. This strategic planning exercise will help determine who we are as a community and focus on what we have to offer.

You can refer to the Ottawa Neighbourhood Study for a better understanding at the following link:

<http://neighbourhoodstudy.ca/>

I suggested that the rural voice (as in HCM) can often be overlooked and asked that any media releases to the NRT also be send to our office so we can include it in a newsletter.

Mary MacCafferty spoke briefly about the Canadian Foundation for Healthcare Improvement future funding possibilities, patient engagement surveys and asked the question of how the council could do a better job.

St. Anthony School VP was in attendance and open to including students in “civic engagement” opportunities as offered in the Renfrew Community Study.

Partner updates:

Clara Hughes (info at www.clarasbigride.bell.ca) will be in Deep River on June 29th for a Welcome Event at 6:30. She is coming from North Bay that day and will be riding through HCM. What can we do to cheer her through?

Paramedic home visit program will continue and be expanded. When surveyed this client base reports that the PSWs are the group that helps the most to keep them in their homes.

FEN received funding for the Positive Parenting program. They are also offering a KP transition program.

Food Bank survey shows that 40% of clients are men. Are there opportunities in the area to encourage volunteerism for youth?

NRFS is looking at space issues and succession planning.

NRFHT's renovations have improved service delivery. New patients are being encouraged to register now. Yes! Even if you are healthy! There is no need to go through Health Connect, call NRFHT directly at 613-584-1037 and they will do the rest. Talk to your neighbours.

In my opinion it is very important for HCM to have a representative at this council. I believe that it is possible that our small municipality can be overlooked in the "bigger picture". Health, social, well-being and quality of life issues affect us all. As councillors, we must be available for meetings and voice the rural life realities to be understood. I think that a number of our residents do not necessarily identify with our larger neighbours and expect us to speak on their behalf.

Councillor Debbi Grills