

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE COUNCIL MEETING

July 17, 2007

The meeting was called to order by the Chairperson, at 7:00 p.m., in the Conference Room, in the Administrative Centre, in Barrington, N.S., with the following members present:

- Louise Halliday, Chairperson
 - George El-Jakl
 - Donna LeBlanc-Messenger
 - Eddie Nickerson
 - Wilford Smith
 - Larry Stewart
 - Sean Strang
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- Brian Holland, Municipal Clerk

PURPOSE OF MEETING

The purpose of this meeting was to discuss the future of the Community Health Centre with representatives from the District Health Authority.

DISCUSSION

The District Health Authority members in attendance were:

- Tanya Nixon, Vice-President, Community Health
- Melanie Mooney, Primary Health Care Manager
- Rosanne D'Eon, Community Health Centre's Coordinator

Several questions were addressed to the representatives of the District Health Authority regarding the Community Health Centre and its future, and also questions were addressed to them regarding who the Municipality should be in contact with at the District Health Authority for discussion about the Community Health Centre. It was indicated that Tanya Nixon is the individual at the District Health Authority who has the authority to deal with issues concerning the Nurse Practitioner and other services provided at the Community Health Centre by the District Health Authority. Melanie Mooney and Rosanne D'Eon both report to Tanya Nixon.

The District Health Authority's vision for services at the Community Health Centre in Barrington depend on the space available and the cost of providing those services. The current approach of the Community Health Centre is to present primary health care through a team effort so that other health care professionals work in collaboration with physicians. This means physicians are no longer working on their own to provide primary health care.

The District Health Authority has a satellite office at Parson's Mall in Barrington Passage, out of which are offered many services. They also offer several services out of the Community Health Centre and will increase those services as space becomes available, at little or no cost. The District Health Authority will provide a list of services to the Municipality which are being offered at the Parson's Mall location and also the services being offered at the Community Health Centre. They will also indicate potential services that may be offered by the District Health Authority and other partners providing health care in the area.

The meeting was informed that the District Health Authority has permanent funding in place for provision of a Nurse Practitioner. This funding is provided through the Department of Health and not the District Health Authority. Should the current Nurse Practitioner leave, a new Nurse Practitioner would be hired to replace her. It is estimated this would take 6 - 10 weeks.

The District Health Authority has a Strategic Plan which is located on its website, which is very general in nature.

The District Health Authority would prefer not to pay rent in any further locations in which it is providing health services. The District Health Authority will provide the personnel, together with other health care providers in the area, but does not wish to provide the physical locations at which health services must be provided.

The committee was advised that it should communicate with Tanya Nixon or Melanie Mood on operational issues regarding the District Health Authority.

There then followed some discussion regarding the expansion of the Community Health Centre, and the amount of time health professionals would be willing to tolerate inconvenience in their workplace. It was suggested that a period of six months would be a maximum amount of time that the health professionals would be willing to tolerate inconvenience before something is done to increase their work space at the Health Centre location. It was suggested that the Municipality should have a plan and vision for the provision of health care at the Community Health Centre.

ADJOURNMENT

Having completed their discussion of matters, the meeting was adjourned by mutual consent of members at 9:25 p.m.

Chairperson

Secretary for the Meeting

On website July 18, 2007.