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WAHA focus

WEENEEBAYKO AREA HEALTH AUTHORITY

Summer Update

WAHA underwent two extensive reviews in the beginning of the year. An Operational Review (Hay Group) and a WAHIFA review (Ference Group) and both final reports are on our website. The review process was extremely successful and highlighted the many issues, starting with a lack of full planning at integration that lead to our recurring financial difficulties and negatively impacted on ongoing integration efforts. Senior officials of both the Federal and Provincial Governments have been reviewing the many recommendations and we should be hearing by the end of the summer what their level of commitment will be to WAHA to remedy these long standing systemic issues.

Both levels of Government are committed to ensuring the financial stability and sustainability of WAHA and our continued success into the future. The Special Advisor to the Minister of Health (Ontario) spent a week in Moose Factory and was able to visit both Attawapiskat and Fort Albany. He was certainly enlightened by his visit and very supportive of the review recommendations, which he was passing on to the Minister.

We have also been working very hard at the next stage of the planning process for our new Hospital and Health Care Campus. Many of you have been involved with our Consultants in the functional programming meetings and we hope to have a completed document ready for submission to Capital Branch by September/October of this year. Both levels of Government have made public commitments to support our capital planning process and we are just awaiting the official confirmation, direction and planning grant to support continued planning.

These have been very successful initiatives, which have required a lot of hard work by many individuals and we are very thankful for all of the efforts both internally and externally to put WAHA back on solid ground and invest in our future. As soon as we receive the results of the Government decisions, I will be communicating that to all members of the WAHA family and our partners.

Have a safe summer.
Bernie D. Schmidt, President & CEO



Leo Loone, Board Chair and Bernie D. Schmidt, CEO

Attawapiskat Update

A lot of activity continues to occur in Attawapiskat. We are solidifying a partnership with Health Sciences North (HSN) that is extending beyond just providing a Crisis Worker and night shift nurse in this community that is still officially under a State of Emergency. Since the middle of June front line leaders from WAHA and some of the schedule 1 facilities have met daily to discuss the mental health pressures along the James and Hudson's Bay Coast. These huddles have been instrumental in identifying capacity and facilitated access to schedule 1 beds. ORNGE also joins weekly NELHIN Senior Leadership calls to understand and mitigate delays related to transporting Form 1 patients along the coast. An increasing number of patients have been able to bypass their previous 2 day hold over in Moose Factory and now travel from the coast directly to the receiving schedule 1 facility. These are only a few of the process improvement initiatives identified through the daily huddle calls.

Kingston General's Child & Adolescent Mental Health Urgent Consult Clinic has also reached out and supported next day OTN consultation for many of the youth who have presented at many of our WAHA sites in crisis. Many youth have been accepted immediately into schedule 1 beds in Kingston. The Urgent Consult Clinic team lead by Dr. Nasreen Roberts also arranged a multiple community meeting by OTN. The support is appreciated by our service providers.

NURSES WEEK

WAHA had a very busy and productive nurses week that was supported by the on the ground leaders at all of our sites. Some promotional gifts were ordered for all nurses at all sites and will be distributed at each sites celebration. Below is a sample of one of the gifts but nurses were also given a pen and flash light

In Attawapiskat we arranged for the Heart Team from the Traditional Healing program to provide foot soaks and massages, this team has been through a lot these past few months so the goal was to provide an opportunity for some self care. A Pot Luck lunch was planned by the team and occurred on the Friday with a cake and gift distribution. Although a stressful year for planning it was fortuitous that the Chief Nursing Executive was able to be on site for the entire week celebrating with this resilient team. Fort Albany also had activities planned with a luncheon/Cake and gifts. Crystal was on site, again unexpected benefit for the coastal site to have a senior leader during nurses week. Mariana Markovic the new DPC started on Monday so there was great opportunities for team building and getting to know each other. Mariana's background will position her well to lead future nursing weeks in Fort Albany. Moosonee had a meal that John was able to get donated by the community and their gift packs were distributed at their tea and cake celebration. Moose Factory supported the senior leadership breakfast on the Wednesday. Elaine Jeffries and Francine Linklater lead the tea and cake slide show and gift distribution on the Thursday afternoon. Unfortunately due to a death in the community the Friday evening nurses week dance had been postponed.

Thanks to the tremendous team work during a very difficult time nurses week was celebrated in all of the communities and appreciation was shown to this often under recognized group of professionals.



WAHA SAYS FAREWELL

After a long and exciting career with the former James Bay General Hospital and then the Weeneebayko Area Health Authority, Bob Gravel retired at the end of July 2016 after 27 years of service to the communities we serve. Bob started his northern nursing career in Attawapiskat as a Staff Nurse and then transferred to the Moosonee Health Centre before taking on the role of Occupational Health and Safety/Infection Control Practitioner at JBGH and then Occupational/Employee Health Nurse with WAHA. Bob and his wife Jennifer have relocated to Trenton to begin a new chapter in their lives. We wish them all the best!



Bob Gravel cutting his Retirement cake.



WAHA has completed the installation of an LMS (Learning Management System) software called MedWorxx as of July 20th, 2016. Thanks to Doug Alisappi and his IT Team and Weena Saunders for their support. The WAHA development team is currently developing course content and configuring user accounts and groups. The start-up date is Oct. 15 for managers/supervisors and key staff to assist with assigned LMS training access. The full implementation roll out to all WAHA users is scheduled for January 2017.

The WAHA Development team (received training as administrators) for Medworxx includes Weena Saunders, John MacIntosh, Joy Butterfly, Paul Duchene, Jeff Gunner, Daniel Mason, Lynne Innes, Jennifer Dunn, Chad Creed, Karen Carpenter, Elaine Jeffries, Lana Plumton and Jack Hutchinson.

We will keep you up to date as we roll this out over the coming months and future training opportunities.

Rene Melchers, Director of Information Management/CIO