



T·H·A·M·E·S Valley Views

- Focus on Primary Health Care
- See page 2 for highlights of our Operating & Service Plan Consultation
- Link to Council's advice on Romanow and Kirby see page 2!

Our Council

Council Members:

B. Halliday, Chair
 R. Alder
 R. Barnier
 I. Brebner
 T. Dignard-Scratch
 B. Habkirk
 M. Hanley
 I. Horton
 F. Lortie-Monette
 R. McElroy
 G. Puddicombe
 M. Raithby
 R. Vardy
 B. Waters
 S. Whittall

Executive Director:

P. Huras

"The audience at April's Primary Health Care Session heard some interesting approaches to offering Primary Health Care. The emerging theme of the session was that an integrated approach to care is necessary." P. Huras

Primary Health Care Perspectives

Recent national and provincial reports from the Romanow Commission, Kirby Committee, Premier's Health Quality Council in New Brunswick, and the Report of the Premier's Advisory Council on Health in Alberta, have identified primary health care as a key component of the health care system.

In addition, the **2003 First Ministers' Accord on Health Care Renewal**

emphasized the importance of primary health care reform in Canada. Key elements of primary health care include: improved continuity and coordination of care, early detection and action, better information on needs and outcomes, and new and stronger incentives to make sure new primary health care initiatives are retained. The accord can be accessed through the Internet at <http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/english/hca2003/accord.html>

Primary Health Care: Thames Valley

In keeping with this focus, Council has identified primary health care as one of its strategic themes for the upcoming year. Using the World Health Organization's definition of primary health care – see <http://www.who.int/hpr/backgroundhp/almaata.htm>, Council has identified the following components which are important to the implementation of primary health care:

- ✓ Patient-centred
- ✓ Inter-disciplinary teams
- ✓ Technology integral to the service
- ✓ Collaborative links with social services and education
- ✓ Health promotion and prevention
- ✓ Interface with hospitals

On the local front, TVDHC congratulates the **Byron Family Health Network**, the first Family Health Network in the City of London!

For more information about Family Health Networks, see our website <http://www.tvdhc.on.ca> under "What's New" – Summer 2002 edition of our newsletter.



Council's annual retreat was kicked off with - *Primary Care: The Keystone to Health Care Integration*, an interactive session designed to highlight the role of primary health care as an enabler of integration. Speakers included: Susan Sue-Chan, Special Projects Unit/Health Service Organization Programs MOHLTC; Marion Relf, Northeast Community Health Centre Capital Health Authority, Edmonton; Dr. Rosana Pellizzari, Community Medicine Resident, University of Toronto; and

Dr. Tom Freeman, Department of Family Medicine UWO & Byron Family Medical Clinic. Council will incorporate key learnings from this session in setting its strategic direction for 2003/2004. Results from the session will be placed on our website.

Local Comprehensive Integrated Health System Plan

Council's health system planning committees are completing work on their environmental scans. Watch for more information about this project in the summer and fall.

Of Note...



Welcome to our new format for
"Thames Valley Views"

Our next issue of "Thames Valley Views", will be sent to our newsletter list electronically where possible. If you have email but would prefer to receive a paper copy of the newsletter, please contact Pauline Lefebvre at (519) 858-5015 or plefebvre@tvdhc.on.ca.

Highlights of Operating & Service Plan Consultation Session

Council recently held its 3rd annual Operating and Service Plan Consultation Sessions. The focus for the sessions was primary health care. The common themes and issues included:

- Long term care & mental health must be components of comprehensive Primary Health Care
- There is a need for directives and infrastructure to support primary health care
- Investment in information technology will improve integration and coordination of primary health care

Please see our website - <http://www.tvdhc.on.ca> under "What's New" for details of each session.

Advice to the Minister of Health & Long-Term Care of Ontario on the Romanow Commission and Kirby Committee Reports

Acting in its capacity as a local health system advisor, Council recently offered its advice regarding the Romanow Commission and Kirby Committee reports to the Ontario Minister of Health and Long-Term Care.

See Council's response to these reports on our website - www.tvdhc.on.ca under "What's New". For a hard copy please contact Pauline Lefebvre at (519) 858-5015 or plefebvre@tvdhc.on.ca.

Contact Us

Thames Valley District Health Council
100 Collip Circle, U.W.O. Research Park, London, Ontario N6G 4X8
Telephone: (519) 858-5015 Facsimile: (519) 858-5016 www.tvdhc.on.ca
