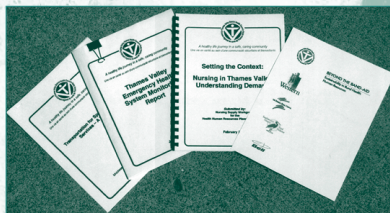


2001 ANNUAL REPORT

THAMES VALLEY DISTRICT HEALTH COUNCIL



*A Healthy
Life Journey
in a Safe, Caring
Community*

FOR THE PERIOD APRIL 1, 2001 TO MARCH 31, 2002

Message From The Chair & The Executive Director

"September 11, 2001 was a most shocking and stunning day for all of us. It is hard to fathom how such horror could be perpetrated on innocent people..."

We have moved on to do the many important things we do day in day out, but with a different perspective on life. Like every small component of productive life, what we do is important. It is the sum of these important works which makes society able to advance, improve and deal with evil. In the grand scheme of things our good work is important and meaningful and we must continue to add value to the people we serve and to ourselves."

- Executive Director's September Report

2001/2002 was a very eventful year for all of us, and it is important to celebrate our efforts to make our own small worlds better. Council's world of local health system planning and developing advice for the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care was marked this year by flourishing partnerships at the local, district, regional and provincial levels.

Local - Council's four Health System Planning Committees partnered with providers and consumers to focus on the changing needs of our local communities. Oxford Committee completed a dual diagnosis blueprinting session, reviewed self care initiatives and worked with the Community Care Access Centre and Oxford municipality to develop a health services data base. Elgin Committee reviewed the legislation on respite care and recommended revisions, and conducted a survey on the utilization of personal support workers. London Committee and St. Joseph's Health Care London initiated planning for a new primary care service model in an underserved area of the city. This proposal will be submitted to the Minister by the end of 2002. Middlesex Committee developed a "Transportation for Specialized Health Services" proposal and held community planning forums on alternative and complementary health care, and health information systems.

The four health system planning committees worked collaboratively to prepare advice to the Minister following a joint health providers operating plan session, and to plan and develop an emergency health system monitoring process. The four committees also prepared a methodology to create local comprehensive integrated health system plans, and hosted two Telehealth forums for providers prior to its Southwest implementation.

Council's French Language Services Planning Committee participated in a health careers fair and continued to assist providers in the development of their French Language Services Implementation Plans.

Health Human Resource Planning Committee, with The University of Western Ontario, Southwestern Ontario Rural Medicine, and Bell Canada, hosted a video conference with speakers from Australia, Norway, Arizona and Quebec discussing various methods to prepare health professionals for rural practice. The committee also completed a major study on "Setting the Context: Nursing in Thames Valley



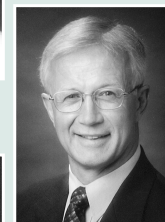
Sandy Whittall
Chair ~ TVDHC



Bruce Halliday
Chair-Elect ~ TVDHC

- Understanding Demand", 2002, and a discussion paper on "Shaping Ontario's Physician Workforce".

Regional - Council was involved in the evolution of the South West Executive Directors' group to the Regional Health Planning Partnership - South West (RHPP-SW). The Southwest Emergency System Network was established and completed work on non-emergency transportation, emergency health human resource planning, and began planning improvements for continuing education in emergency care and the use of nurse practitioners in emergency services.



Paul Huras
Executive Director ~ TVDHC

South West Mental Health Implementation Task Force (MHITF) and its secretariat was supported by DHCs from Waterloo Region-Wellington-Dufferin; Grey Bruce Huron Perth; Essex, Kent & Lambton; and Thames Valley. Building on Ministry and DHC plans, the MHITF will provide advice to the Minister regarding implementation of these plans in November 2002.

Provincial - Council contributed to the DHC Chairs and Provincial Executive Directors advice regarding local health system planning for the Romanow Commission on the Future of Health Care in Canada, and the Ontario Labour Market Survey. These groups also initiated the development of 16 DHC Local Health System Monitoring Projects. The Thames Valley DHC Monitoring Report will be released in 2002.

Council's success in health system planning is dependent upon the contributions of many people. Council appreciates the leadership of Mr. Tony Clement, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care. We also thank our partners and the many volunteers who have collaborated in our health system planning, as well as the Ministry Staff in the local and Toronto offices for their ongoing support.

Council is fortunate to have a highly skilled professional staff to support its work. As part of their pursuit of life long learning, two members reached academic milestones this year. Linda Hebel obtained her Masters in Business Administration and Tricia Potter received her CIM Designation in Business Management. Congratulations to all staff for a successful year of planning. As Chair and Executive Director, we extend our appreciation to all Council Members. The dedication and effort of these special volunteers is sincerely respected.

In conclusion, I have enjoyed my role as Chair during the past two years. It has been a wonderful learning experience and has provided me with the opportunity to work with many talented and committed individuals. The time and enthusiasm contributed to create comprehensive and relevant advice for the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care is truly impressive. There is significant instability in the health care world, as in the world, and yet, as Paul has shared, our Council is doing its part to "make our own small worlds better".