

Rural Health Action Group (RHAG) Report February 2022

Liaison Councillor Sabine Dietz

The five priority areas identified by the RHAG area:

1. Community Recruitment and Retention
2. Community Fund & Incentives for Health Purposes
3. Morale
4. Communications
5. Future Health Services Design

In December 2021, Horizon Health Network (HNN) engaged the services of a consultant (Lori Hebert) to work with the Memramcook-Tantramar region and HHN on the challenges of collaborating around improving health services in the area. RHAG was pleased with HHN showing this commitment to improving the situation and to working collaboratively with the community. RHAG continues to work with Lori to clearly identify and articulate the goals and priorities of this initiative, as well as the roles of the collaborating members from HHN and RHAG. RHAG representatives have invested many hours in this initiative to ensure it gets off the ground with a strong structure, common priorities, and clear responsibilities.

Progress in the 5 priority areas:

1. Physician and Nurse recruitment and retention strategies
François Giroux is leading this initiative, and considerable progress has been made on developing a micro site that markets Sackville to health professionals – this has been in collaboration with HHN of course, and the Town has contributed funding to this work. Videos are also being finalized.
2. Community Fund Development
John Higham is leading this work and continues to explore opportunities and possibilities.
3. Staff Morale
Cards and notes were sent to SMH health care workers before Christmas; carolling has also taken place to show support for health care workers. Collaboration with HH on helping address Morale has begun.
4. Communications
Sandy Burnett and Kathleen Hamer lead this initiative. Currently the goal is to communicate regularly to citizens, and there have been 2 press releases issued since December. The purpose is to inform the public about any news related to the work of the RHAC, but also about any other pertinent information.
5. Rural Health Services Re-design
Judy Morrison leads this working group, and they continue exploring what future rural health services could contribute to better health outcomes and how they might look..