

**Rural Health Action Group (Tantramar Community Task Force)**  
**July 12, 2022**  
**Sabine Dietz, councillor**

There have been a number of press releases and stories that were published over the last month:

The RHAG met on June 20<sup>th</sup>

Horizon Health press release: <https://horizonnb.ca/news-releases/community-collaboration-with-horizon-showing-promising-path-forward/>

CHMA interviews and stories:

June 27th: <https://www.chmafam.com/welcome/horizon-ceo-optimistic-about-er-hours-despite-recent-closure/>

July 5th: <https://www.chmafam.com/welcome/loss-of-two-doctors-in-sackville-emergency-department-related-to-policy-change-meant-to-help-recruitment/>

July 4th interview with Nancy Parker: [https://www.chmafam.com/welcome/talking-with-horizons-nancy-parker-about-recruiting-and-retaining-nurses-at-sackville-hospital/?utm\\_source=mailpoet&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=the-week-s-local-stories-from-chma\\_214](https://www.chmafam.com/welcome/talking-with-horizons-nancy-parker-about-recruiting-and-retaining-nurses-at-sackville-hospital/?utm_source=mailpoet&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=the-week-s-local-stories-from-chma_214)

**Updates on the staffing at the hospital:**

**Brunswick Unit**

- Now has 4 RNs with 2 new RNs starting in August/September, 2022 = 6 by fall.
- 2 positions posted and one recent retirement to be posted.
- 1 RN is on maternity leave.
- There is a full complement of LPNs.
- This has allowed Brunswick to increase capacity from 18 to 19 beds and to start admitting a few care patients from ER on a case-by-case basis.

**ER**

- Presently 4 full-time RNs with an additional 2 full time and 1 part time starting in August/Sept. = 6.5.
- Ads are currently out for 1 temporary (Maternity leave- hard to fill these), 1 part time, and 1 full-time.
- An RN from Brunswick is being cross trained in ER.

**Physicians**

- The local physicians voted to decouple the requirement for both ER and Family functions. The trend toward one specialization or the other was apparently becoming clearer. The suggestion is that ER services become a Regional Service, similar to how Sussex and Saint John are operating.
- This will allow recruitment for ER specialists that will then work wherever the demand requires it. As a result of the staffing physicians then being done by the ER service, it should create consistent ER services in the long term. SMH will then better complement Moncton services, creating better outcomes and less waiting times everywhere.

- Recruitment remains particularly difficult at this time, but even now it is seen that there is a better chances of staffing ER as a specialty service, than seeking both family and ER profiles as was the usual practice.
- ER - presently 3 doctors trying to cover all slots (they all also have family practices).
- There are possibly 2 doctors interested in doing fill in work in the ER for the summer, but getting paperwork sorted is very slow.
- Also, a very experienced NP who lives in Sackville and used to work in NS is keen to do some ER work.
- There may be a family doctor starting an office-based practice part time in the new year.