

Rural Health Action Group (Tantramar Community Task Force)
August 8th, 2022
Sabine Dietz, councillor

The RHAG did not meet in July.

Update on the Horizon / RHAG collaboration:

1. The monthly Steering Committee meeting of the Horizon Collaboration on Thursday July 28th was extended to include several RHAG volunteers. The reason was that the Interim CEO of Horizon Ms. Margaret Melanson, and the Trustee appointed to oversee Horizon, Ms. Suzanne Johnston, were invited to take part.

Both were well briefed on the collaboration and the projects underway. In sum, they both clearly stated:

- that they support the collaboration effort,
- that the process and all projects should continue, and
- they were interested in seeing how similar efforts might be implemented with other communities.

We discussed that one of RHAGs experience is that the province should consider innovative new roles in governing health services, rather than advisory ones. RHAG intends to pursue this with Trustee Johnston.

2. The August 2 meeting between RHAG and HHN on the collaboration projects included:
 - Summary of the above meeting;
 - The marketing plan for the community's recruitment link/pages would be decided soon;
 - Need to now focus on physician recruitment;
 - That the two-person Task Force on the future of Health Plan actually continues alongside the two taking responsibility for Vitalité and Horizon – (RHAG had previously asked to meet the Task Force, and was asked if it would still pursue that meeting);
 - That the service design working group was carrying out detailed interviews with health care and health service providers in our region and will have some results soon.

Service Design Working Group

The Service Design Working Group has completed the community interviews and is developing directions for action that they will review with RHAG and present to HHN in September.

BACKGROUND ON HORIZON INTERIM CEO and TRUSTEE

Interim CEO Margaret Melanson

Ms Melanson was formerly the VP of Quality and Patient Centred Care, and more recently took over as VP Clinical and joined the collaboration at that time. She was recently named Interim CEO of Horizon and remains an active member of the Collaboration Steering Committee.

Trustee; Suzanne Johnston

- The Provincial government had appointed two leaders to a Task Force to guide the implementation of the Provincial Health Plan, Suzanne Johnston and Gerald Richard.

- Horizon Health Network's and Vitalité's Board of Directors were recently removed and replaced each with a Trustee.
- The Horizon board trustee is Suzanne Johnston, and Vitalité's is Gerald Richard.
- Both are also still responsible as co-chairs of the Health Plan Task Force.