

**Rural Health Action Group (Tantramar Community Task Force)**  
**October 11, 2022**  
**Sabine Dietz, councillor**

Community recruitment and retention

- The **Thrive NB** corporation is assisting Horizon with newly hired professionals settling into their new roles and communities. Thrive has been collaborating with RHAG on preparing for new staff coming here, and RHAG has assisted in creating understandings with a landlord for short term assistance, and multiple contacts for other services.
- Last week the first international nurse and her family arrived in Sackville. We are told they have been overjoyed so far. Please know that her spouse will be seeking work in the area as well, and RHAG and Thrive have reached out to several potential employers, and with residents with links to the country they have left.
- The nursing complement at SMH is near its target which can return ER and Brunswick services to be close to full return of services.
- Physicians are now the priority targets for recruitment. The community, with financial assistance from the Town, MTA, Port Eglin, Dorchester and Memramcook, were able to register at the Dalhousie family medicine retreat in St Andrew's for residents. This allowed us to set up our own booth to advocate for careers here, and to address the full attendees with a short speech. The speech was made by the new Nurse Manager at SMH, the booth was hosted by two local doctors, and the booth was borrowed from the Town, and a Town staff person assisted with all details and logistics on site.
- This cooperative community effort resulted in 36 individuals leaving their names with the booth, and 12 of them asking for specific follow up contact. The follow up process is now underway.

Update on the Horizon / RHAG collaboration:

- Horizon has asked the Sussex region to consider a collaboration agreement, similar to the one here. The mayor and two RHAG volunteers participated in an introductory meeting earlier last month. The two RHAG volunteers were later asked to brief the volunteers in Sussex directly and about practical issues they will face. That took place last week, and the offer was made to call RHAG at any time.

Service Design Group

The Service design group continues to develop a proposal that will be provided to HHN in the near future.

Other

RHAG Volunteer John Higham participated in a panel at the UMN Conference this past weekend on community roles in health. The two Trustees, the two CEO's, and the Mayor of Cambellton joined him on the Panel. Higham pushed for new governance roles for communities that can replace the various individual efforts being made to try to participate in health matters. UMN staff suggested it would create a committee to address potential roles