



SUMMARY

Leeds, Grenville and Lanark Municipal - Public Health Networking Call Friday, February 23, 2024

Recording: https://us06web.zoom.us/rec/share/ueA8GK1Zre_7eafaAjOZO_rsnWd-TFSS1mS9bSvqb3izyrvF3X9scvXozam22PME.wsJHpuR-b5Sf0XqU

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Topic(s) of Discussion

- 1.0 **Welcome/Introductions** – Peter McKenna, Chair of the Leeds, Grenville & Lanark District Health Unit Board of Health and Municipal Counsellor in Smiths Falls
 - Welcome greetings extended and introductions made.
 - Dr. Linna Li emphasized the importance of the work of the municipal public health team in the community and how their work relates to the work of municipalities, i.e. (safe roads, quality of buildings, where people fit in their community, where people can access services, and so forth that are all foundational to public health).
 - Part of the work that our municipal public health nurses do is to provide support, feedback and considerations to the municipalities as it relates to public health in the their communities.

- 2.0 **Topic: Municipal Public Health Nurse (PHN) Role** (*please refer to Municipal PHN Liaison Role presentation*)
Municipal PHN Liaison Role Presentation – Joanne Desormeaux, Kathryn Allwright-Casseldean, Kimberley Marshall
 - As your Municipal PHN Liaisons, we are part of a **multi-disciplinary team** (e.g. Public Health Nurses, Health Promoters, Public Health Nutritionists, Public Health Inspectors, Smoke Free Ontario Inspectors, Health Equity Coordinator), working in partnership with municipalities and community partners to achieve our mutual goals of fostering vibrant, healthy, communities.
 - We do this in a variety of ways:
 - Navigating Health Unit Resources/Services
 - Collaborative Information Sharing
 - Supporting Plans/Polices/Bylaws
 - Providing Evidence and Best Practices
 - Providing Data Collection and Surveillance
 - Supporting Committee and Community Councils
 - Being able to share information back and forth can help promote healthy community initiatives collaboratively
 - We do this in a variety of ways e.g. media releases, public information sessions (e.g. opioids and naloxone), social media campaigns (food and water safety, promoting trails, events), healthy community grants, community surveys, etc.)
 - Primary work areas for the Municipal PHN Team:
 - Danielle Shewfelt: North Lanark, (i.e. Almonte, Mississippi Mills)
 - Joanne Desormeaux: South Lanark, (i.e. Smiths Falls, and to the East and West of Smiths Falls)

- Kathryn Allwright-Casseldean: East Leeds, (i.e. North Grenville, South Grenville, Township of Merrickville & Wolford, Township of Elizabethtown & Kitley)
- Kim Marshall, Brockville & West to Gananoque, (i.e. Township of Leeds & Thousand Islands, Township of Rideau Lakes, Westport, Front of Yonge & Athens)

3.0 Questions/Comments

- Q: Mayor Brant Burrow: During the COVID pandemic, a lot of programs were paused and the focus was on dealing with the pandemic. What were some of the things learned over COVID and what was carried over from the pandemic? What are we doing differently now then what we were doing before the pandemic?
 - A: Peter McKenna: Recommend looking at the summary of the Board of Health meeting, our annual update (recorded), Thursday, February 22nd. The staff provided an in-depth overview of public health activities. The meeting will be posted on the Health Unit's website shortly.
 - A: Dr. Linna Li: Currently we are in the active recovery phase and have been for the past year. We discovered several things: 1) the pandemic changed us and changed our communities; 2) we undertook an organizational structure change – orientation has shifted with new structures in place; 3) the needs of the community changed.
 - New strategic plan finalized in December and in the midst of operationalizing
 - We are undergoing a return to normal services now that we are moving out of pandemic as our core work
 - We have additional enhancements of our mental health services that we provide which is in the realm of the support for people with addictions
 - The way we are responding to how our societies have changed post pandemic with community level mental health support needs
 - Health and well-being of our staff with a much deeper focus on how well the teams and staff are doing and how to make the Health Unit a healthier place to work
 - A: Joanne Desormeaux: We have also spent significant time working on priority planning for our team, recognizing the needs of our municipalities with a focus on social determinants of health – ensuring all people have the opportunity to be healthy. Resources are stretched – health equity lens is one of our priorities.
- Q: Mayor Shawn Pankow: How can the Health Unit help with better communication navigating through some challenges regarding transitional housing in the community (fears of needles, possible danger to the public, how to decrease stigma, etc.)?
 - A: Joanne Desormeaux and Jessica McKenzie, Health Equity Coordinator, will connect with Mayor Pankow for further discussion.

4.0 Next Call: Friday, March 15th at 10:00 am. Topic to be determined.

- Please bring forward topics by reaching out to your Municipal Public Health Nurse Liaison, Peter McKenna, or Dr. Linna Li. We are looking forward to strengthening the relationship with our municipal team.