

Temagami Family Health Team - 2024 at a Glance

As we reflect on the activities of 2024, this report, prepared by Ellen Ibey, Executive Director, Temagami Medical Centre and Councillor Margaret Youngs, Municipality Liaison for Temagami and Council Representative, highlights the key developments and achievements of the Temagami Family Health Team (FHT). The report underscores significant strides made in expanding services, addressing staffing needs, and enhancing operational efficiency.

1. Expansion of Temagami FHT Operations

- **Approval Received for Expansion:** The Temagami FHT received approval to expand operations to include the Cobalt and Latchford medical clinics.
- **New Positions Recruited:** The following positions have been successfully filled:
 - Full-time nurse for both clinic sites
 - Full-time social worker (shared between the two sites)
 - Full-time psychotherapist (shared between the two sites)
- **Service Hours Increased:**
 - Respiratory Therapy hours extended to the new clinics
 - Dietitian hours extended to the new clinics
- **Ongoing Recruitment:** Efforts to recruit a Registered Dietitian for the new clinics are currently underway.

2. Nurse Practitioner Recruitment and Development

- **Nurse Practitioner Resignation:** The team's Nurse Practitioner resigned, effective June 1, 2024.
- **Recruitment Challenges:** Recruitment efforts for a new NP were unsuccessful.
- **"Grow Your Own" NP Program:** A candidate from Temagami has been selected to work as a primary care nurse. This individual will:

- Gain required hours before applying to the NP program.
- Become a full-time NP student for two years.
- Return to Temagami FHT as a full-time NP upon completion.

3. Psychotherapist Resignation and Replacement

- **Psychotherapist Resignation:** K. Julien resigned to pursue full-time private practice. Her last day was December 31st, 2024.
- **Replacement:** Kayla Williams has been recruited as her replacement, with no gap in service expected.

4. Medical Office Receptionist Recruitment

- **Retirement:** Dr. L. Turcotte retired at the end of 2024.
- **New Hire:** P. Howse was recruited as a full-time medical office receptionist, starting on January 2nd, 2025.

5. Temiskaming Area Ontario Health Team (TAOHT) Developments

- **Patient and Family Advisory Council (PFAC):** The TAOHT is establishing a PFAC. Interested individuals can contact Kerry Schubert-Mackey, Transformation Lead, at kerry.schubert-mackey@blancheriverhealth.ca.
- **Local PFAC Meetings:** Local PFAC meetings will resume under the leadership of Nancie Prescott. With the expansion of the Temagami FHT to Cobalt and Latchford, individuals from these communities will be invited to join the Board of Directors and PFAC of the Temagami FHT.

6. Osteotron Bone Growth Stimulator Purchase

- **Delay in Equipment Availability:** The team is in the process of purchasing an Osteotron Bone Growth Stimulator.
 - The previous version was removed from the market before the new version became available.

- There is no ETA on when the new equipment will be available for purchase.

7. Expansion of Online Appointment Booking Service

- **OAB Service Expansion:** The team will be expanding its online appointment booking (OAB) service in the coming weeks.

8. AI Scribe Implementation for Providers

- **AI Scribe Technology:** The team is exploring the use of AI scribe technology for certain providers to assist in:
 - Charting
 - Forms completion
 - Other administrative tasks
- **Software Consideration:** Various software options are being considered after being tested by Ontario MD.

9. Locum Physicians

- Dr. B. Mathias will provide locum services for the last two weeks of January 2025.
- Dr. S. Lachapelle will provide locum services for one week in May 2025.

Conclusion

The Temagami Family Health Team (FHT) has made significant progress in 2024 with its expansion, recruitment, and development efforts. The team continues to enhance services and operations to meet the evolving needs of the community. Updates will be provided in subsequent meetings.