

Health Services Strategy #1	
Work with existing efforts to attract and retain medical professionals to fully service our communities	
Solutions	Supportive details and action items
Collaborate with local municipal initiatives in their recruitment efforts.	Write letters of supports from Vibrant Communities and its members.
	Encourage the inclusion of nurse practitioners in recruitment efforts.
	Advocate expanding the program to include non-local medical professionals. (Debt forgiveness/Reeducation for out of country qualification)
	Explore best practices in recruitment efforts from other communities including relocation support (Housing etc)
Create a positive community attraction campaign.	Engage with Tourism and Economic Development Departments
Attract doctors to join Vibrant Communities to inform our decisions making.	Engage with Community Health Networks and organizations to help recruit doctors for our working groups
Ensure increased telemedicine options continues post-pandemic.	Telemedicine opens opportunities for access to specialist however can create barriers for some.
Build trust for Nurse Practitioners	Public Education on the benefits of using a nurse practitioners.
Advocate for changed in the canadian health care recertification	Lobby for flexibility and affordable recertification for medical professionals from outside of Canada.
Identify the scope of medical professionals to meet the needs of our communities	The need reaches beyond general practitioners. (Nurse Practitioners, Pediatricians, Psychiatrists, etc.)
Identify the need by public surveys	
Timeline:	0 to 6 months

Health Services Strategy #2	
Workshops and classes dedicated to prevention.	
Solutions	Supportive details and action items
Create a complete list of programs that is available and ensure this list is updated regularly and shared with our community.	Programs can include nutrition, healthy lifestyles etc.
Identify the gaps and work with community partners to create the a plan to fill the gaps.	Work with local health provider to implement new programs.
	Ensure there is inclusion of workshops that do not require equipment
Create free fitness workshop for vulnerable populations.	Walking groups with accountability.
Timeline:	0 to 6 months

Health Services Strategy #3	
Opportunities for free access to indoor and outdoor physical activity and equipment.	
Solutions	Supportive details and action items
Promote what already exists in our community by partnering with existing infrastructure and programs.	South stormont lending library.
Provide education on the use of free/outdoor exercise equipment.	Provide educational classes on equipment use.
Create a lending library for outdoor recreation equipment.	Consult with local libraries.
Ensure there are no financial barriers to access recreational activities in SDGCA	Provide passes to outdoor activities through libraries.
Support the implementation of local municipal recreation master plans.	Ensure they are implemented with a lense of equity and accessibility
Timeline:	1 to 2 years

Health Services Strategy #4	
Advocate for true Universal Health Care	
Solutions	Supportive details and action items
Lobby to expand Universal Health Care	To include eye and dental and essential medical care, medication and supplies
Create an assessment-based emergency fund for medical care to fill in the gap for those in need.	Ensure they have accessed all over supports (ex Trillium etc)
	See Community Safety Pillar Strategy #6 Support families and individuals in emergency or financial Crisis Situation
Leverage existing advocacy campaigns to lobby system changes at the provincial and federal level.	Advocate for doctors to receive the same compensation regardless of how the patient is paying. (Ex ODSP/OW vs insurance)
Provide System navigation through the existing supports by collaborating with 211	Ensure 211 is updated with all local resource and educate doctors the benefits of 211
Ensure clients can advocate for themselves or have someone that can advocate for them.	Work with existing programs to mentor individuals to become advocates (ie: PLEO, Senior Clubs, Caregiver Center)
Encourage and equip residents to be able to vote in local elections and be engaged with their local candidate and the issues.	Facilitate the conversation between residents and candidates regarding issues related to health care.
Create a lending library for medical equipment.	Consult with Dundas County Hospice on how we can expand this program to the community as a whole.
Promote funding programs or affordable alternatives for medical equipment and care.	Promote the existing Free Clinics and Healthy Smiles
	Ensure the process is easy and accessible
Timeline:	0 to 6 months

Health Services Strategy #5

Advocate for extended health coverage for new Canadians.

Solutions	Supportive details and action items
Join existing provincial and federal lobbying campaign	Ensure the necessary medical care for new Canadians go beyond emergency services.
Promote what services are available to newcomers.	Work with EOTB and ACFO to connect them with the appropriate health related resources that service newcomers.
	Ensure this is shared in multiple languages.
Survey newcomers to identify gaps.	To identify what was missing when they first arrived and accessed health services
Timeline:	6 months to a year

Health Services Strategy #6

Continue offering virtual Health Services.

Solutions	Supportive details and action items
Identify a new base model of service delivery.	Inventory the progress made in virtual programing
	Online and phone health services such as telemedicine, e-Counselling, services by text or social media, and online support groups.
Continue innovating new models of service	Such as Text and apps
	Ensure all virtual serviced are accessible to individuals with varying disabilities.
Ensure innovation doesn't create gaps due to lack to digital literacy and access to technology	Advocate for better internet connection in rural communities
	Adapt serviced to the clients needs such as accommodating with a phone call.
Timeline:	On going

Health Services Strategy #7

Adaptive, accessible and flexible health services delivery to meet people and their individual needs.

Solutions	Supportive details and action items
Survey clients and the community on when, where and how they would like to access their health services to identify gaps.	Creating flexibility can remove the stigma among youth when they are absent school for a medical appointment
Advocacy for additional funding for non-profit health service agencies.	Funding is required for additional days, receptions, cleaners etc
Encourage employers to allow their staff to create their own flexible schedules.	This might be difficult to implement in unionized workplaces.
Encourage the use of nurse practitioners as a valid option within the health team.	This can alleviate the current pressures and needs for doctors
Advocate for a 24-hour walk-in clinic	Can alleviate the demand in emergency rooms
Better communicate existing services that are flexible	Ensure websites and 211 have updated information on service hours and programs
	Education on the capacity of a pharmacist
Encourage agencies to offer home visits for complex cases.	Ensuring safety. Safety audits to be considered if mobile services are developed.
	Find additional funding to allow the growth and sustainability of home visits
Consider Transportation in the definition of accessible	Free or affordable transportation to and from appointments
Timeline:	1 to 2 years

Health Services Strategy #8	
Ensure members of our community have access to transportation in order to attend their medical appointment.	
Solutions	Supportive details and action items
Promote existing transportation programs and services.	Inventory existing programs and promote within the communities.
Work with existing transportation providers such as transit, taxi and more to expand sustainable shuttle service for seniors or those with disabilities	Advocate for changes to Handi-Transit to ensure it is easy to use. Review transit master plan.
	Public Transportation across SDGCA and out of region for medical appointments
Create a program with community volunteers that are not tied to a specific agency but can be accessed by all clients.	Volunteers could also help clients fill out forms.
	Ensure appropriate vehicles (Accessible) adequate insurance etc.
	Create a tool kit for agencies on how to engage volunteers for transportation
	Volunteers would receive appropriate training
Timeline:	6 months to a year

Health Services Strategy #9

Work with health care provide to ensure better accessibility in rural communities.

Solutions	Supportive details and action items
Explore mobile health services and home visits.	Create community Satellite offices in all municipalities which will mitigate the costs of travel. (Possible locations: Pharmacies, libraries, etc)
	Considering the difficulties to implement a traveling service, prioritize this for the most complex needs
See HS 8 for transportation related action items.	
Timeline:	1 to 2 years

Health Services Strategy #10

Advocate for barrier free parking at medical facilities.

Solutions	Supportive details and action items
Advocate for further funding for medical facilities	Funding to replace the financial loss of potentially removing parking fees.
Provide parking passes	Provide free parking passes to vulnerable people through a donation system.
	Discount for agencies to buy multiple passes to share with their clients
Encourage the creation of more accessible parking spaces.	Work with medical facilities to increase capacity for handicap parking spaces.
Timeline:	6 months to a year

Health Services Strategy #11	
More support for Allied Health Services	
Solutions	Supportive details and action items
Create inventory of existing services.	Ensure inventory is made public.
Advocate for more funding for the client and the professionals	Such as Nutritionist etc
Work with the Ontario Health Teams in our area	Support their proposal to the provincial government.
Educate local employers on expanded benefit coverage	Includes mental health and self care expenses.
Encourage health professionals to adopt a sliding scale for fees.	This would provide the opportunity for low income individuals to access these services
Timeline:	1 to 2 years

Health Services Strategy #12

Educational opportunities to teach individuals about new technologies now being used in health care.

Solutions	Supportive details and action items
Collaborate with literacy providers such as Tri-County Literacy Council and Moi j'apprends	Promote existing digital literacy programs
	Explore further funding opportunities for literacy providers to offer more specific and spacialled courses. (Personal care devices, clinic check-in computers, etc.)
Work with Seniors clubs and Carefor to deliver such training.	Ensure accessibility to training (ex: Access to internet, tech literacy, Visual impairment ect)
Timeline:	6 months to a year