

Minutes of the Haiti Healthcare Support Team May 22, 2023

1. Welcome
2. Reviewed Bishop Jean's visit and importance of collaboration as a Diocese. Each individual parish twin shares the goals of improving healthcare in Haiti and coordinating efforts through the Diocese of Hinche will allow far more effectiveness and assurance that even more communities benefit.
3. Focus areas for 2023
 - a. Medication purchasing program – we will write up a message to send to all twinned parishes in the Diocese regarding this opportunity and especially with the conditions now prevalent, working through Fr. Herald's team is highly valuable.
 - b. Kurt will prepare an outreach email to ask for sharing of ideas between parishes that are engaged in health care.
4. Jane Drichta spoke of the great work being done by the Midwives For Haiti, and their ongoing dedication to maternal health care.
 - a. They are opening a new Birth Center near Hinche
 - b. They just graduated their 12th cohort of midwives.
 - c. They now have 204 graduates, which is 1/3 the maternal health work force in Haiti.
5. Fr. Herald spoke on ongoing activities
 - a. Training – education of the clinicians is a major priority
 - i. He would appreciate speakers or materials that pertain to Mental Health, Chronic disease, and Infectious Diseases
 - ii. Since travel to Haiti is limited we will explore Webinars/Zoom meetings.
 - iii. I would like volunteers to reach out to their physician colleagues to consider providing e-consults on a trial basis, or to serve as speakers on various topics
 - b. Fr. Herald is involved in two areas of research with colleagues from Notre Dame (US) [iodine supplements] and U Mass [informatics]. Kurt will reach out to the faculty at Notre Dame for more information.
 - c. Fr. Herald discussed his goal of a Drug Depot where medications could be stored longer and take advantage of bulk purchasing as well as providing a central point of access. He estimates the cost of this to be \$40,000.
 - d. Fr. Herald also mentioned the need for equipment such as diagnostic sets and lab equipment such as microscopes. Kurt will ask him for a more detailed list of needs.
6. We discussed the opportunity to increase awareness of the health care activities and especially the activities being undertaken by Father Herald. This will involve three approaches:
 - a. Tina W will talk with Kathy of HEST to see how they manage visits from Dr. Joseph. The plan will be for Fr. Herald to visit the US and speak at parishes about health care needs and the work being done in the Diocese of Hinche.

- b. Anne K. will help Fr. Herald develop a article for the Catholic Virginian and Tina W will engage Lily Nguyen of the CV.
- c. As we identify parishes who are twinning in health care or might be interested in health care, HHST will develop Webinars to showcase the activities being done by Fr. Herald and the Diocese, and also the work being done by some of the current US-Haitian twins.

Respectfully submitted,

Kurt Elward