



Metro Vancouver Aboriginal Executive Council

Suite 004 - 1607 East Hastings Street
Vancouver, BC, V5L 1S7
phone: (604) 255-2394 website: www.mvaec.ca

Aboriginal Community
Career Employment
Service Society

Aboriginal Front Door
Society

Aboriginal Mothers Centre
Society

Canadian Aboriginal AIDS
Network

Circle of Eagles Lodge
Society

Federation of Aboriginal
Foster Parents

Fraser Region Aboriginal
Friendship Centre
Association

Healing Our Spirit Society

Helping Spirit Lodge
Society

Kekinow Native Housing

Knowledgeable Aboriginal
Youth Association

Lu'ma Native Housing
Society

Native Education College

Nisga'a Ts'amiks
Vancouver Society

Pacific Association of First
Nation Women

Spirit of the Children
Society

Urban Native Youth
Association

Vancouver Aboriginal
Community Policing
Centre

Vancouver Aboriginal
Friendship Centre Society

Vancouver Aboriginal
Transformative Justice
Services Society

Vancouver Aboriginal
Child & Family Services
Society

Vancouver Native Health
Society (VNHS)

Vancouver Native Housing
Society

Warriors Against Violence
Society

Urban Indigenous Opioid Task Force Meeting

Wednesday, July 26th, 2017

9:15 am to 11:30 am

VAFCS Chief Simon Baker Room

Minutes

Present:

- Rocky James- Co-Chaired
- Colter Long- Co-Chaired
- Norm Leech
- Terriea Harris
- Debbie Krull
- Ashraf Mohammed
- Russell Maynard
- Jamie Dexel
- Sarah Levine
- Scott Bernstein
- Laurel Jebamani
- Leslee Montgomery
- Soha Sabeti
- Cole McGillivray
- Dorothy Brown
- Eric Berndt
- Kanna Hayashi
- Leonard Laboucan
- Heather Bretschneider
- Brenda Wesley
- Mark Tyndall
- Delilah Gregg
- Danielle Mitchell
- Brianna Stevenson
- Denise Bradshaw
- Alycia Fridkin
- Barb Ellis
- Andrea Medley
- Andrea Derban
- Lynn Power
- Patrick Smith
- Nora Hanuse
- Lindsay Farrell

Regrets: Michelle Wong, Rodney Olinek, Arthur Paul, Elise Durante, Jenna Gaines, Shaun MacDonald, Fleurie Hunter, Fawn Adolph, Cheryl Ward, Alba Banman, Christopher VanVeen, Cheyenne Johnson, Janine Stevenson, Kenneth Tupper, Marcel Swain, Margot Kuo, Nancy Laliberte, Meg Emslie, Tara Nault, Malcolm Steinberg, Donald MacPherson, Rob Turnbull, Kevin Barlow, Lou Demerais, & Zakary Zawaduk

Meeting opened at 9:15 am

1. Opening prayer: Rocky James
2. Moment of silence for Tracey Morrison (WAHRS) and lives lost
 - I. Group member introductions
3. Old Business:
 - I. Agenda accepted as presented.
 - II. Revision of Terms of Reference accepted as presented
 - i. *Revise spelling error*

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4. New Business

- I. Round the table discussion of what the top priority needs are, what information is needed, and the information/services members are providing.
 - i. What information is needed?
 - ii. What information can member provide?
 - iii. Preference for information dissemination?

Main themes identified:

Harm Reduction:

- Survival and preventing overdose deaths suggested as top priority
- Radical short-term policies recommended in response to crisis
- Need for supervised using sites (smoke & injection) to prevent overdose deaths
- Learn why some people are not calling 911 at OD event

Prevention & Awareness:

- Need for a holistic, community-based approach
 - Healing forums recommended to heal with different voices
 - Need to support frontline worker and address burnout
- Support for families & children
 - Suggested to intervene with children and families where trauma begins
 - Emergency response needed for children surviving loss of caregivers
 - Need for youth representation at UIOTF
 - Need for school board representation at UIOTF
- Need to reduce barriers for those transitioning into stability
 - On-reserve to off-reserve
 - In-corrections to out of corrections
 - Out of housing to in-housing
- Need for employment and housing strategies
 - Wrap-around services

Treatment & Intervention:

- Need for social connection, reconnection & bonding
 - Need for relationship and trust building with clients.
 - Consistent service and relationship with care providers
- Need for updated information on substances and peoples' reaction to them
- Need to decrease long waitlists and increase access to services
 - Recommendation for immediate *pre-care* while clients are on waitlists
- Need for services outside of DTES and outside of regular business hours
 - Need for access to outdoor healing space.
- Need more funding for program space and staffing.
- Need for proper in-care pain management to prevent attrition

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Culture as Treatment:

- Need for *Culture as Treatment* because “Culture Saves Lives”.
 - Relay stories of success
 - Funding for cultural programming like sweat lodges and elders
- Need for cultural humility & safety
 - Tools needed to be taught for experiencing racism and stigma
 - Cultural sensitivity training for caregivers
 - Accessible reporting and complaint systems need to be in place to identify where racism exists
 - Show evidence for effectiveness

Collective Impact:

- Need for UIOTF Member Directory containing members’ contact information and a list of services provided
 - Need for collaboration among members
 - A network needs to be created to facilitate data sharing
- Need to map continuum of care
 - Identify gaps in service
- Need to identify successful outcomes
 - Define targets
 - Compare aspirational model to reality
 - Recommended that successful non-Indigenous models adapted for needs of Indigenous people
- Need to “legitimize” Indigenous knowledge
 - Ie. Scholarly article published by WAHRS
- Need for stakeholders with lived experience to be included in discussions

5. Closing activity: Rocky James

Adjourned: at 11:30am

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Appendix: Direct Responses

- *"We need to map out the spectrum of care before, during, and after using substances"* (Norm Leech, VACPC)
- *"9/10 women will not go with paramedics because they want to stay at WISH... Waitlists are 18 months long"* (Wanda Pelletier, WISH)
- *"People show up in Vancouver with no place to live and no money"* (Leonard Laboucan, VAFCS)
- *"What we're doing is not working as a community... There is a need for reconnection"* (Terriea Harris, BWSS)
- *"Need for holistic intervention- spiritual, mental, physical, & emotional"* (Patrick Smith, PHS)
- *"Clients want to see brown faces"* (Lynn Power, NCCABC)
- *"Families that are using are more complex cases"* (Jamie Dixel, SOTCS)
- *"Data is important, but to what end? OD's are the result of failed drug policies that have been in place for years"* (Scott Bernstein, CDPC)
- *"Clinic hours don't work"* (Roger Tourand, OOT)
- *"Need for low barrier cultural-activities"* (Andrea Medley, FNHA)
- *"Need to hear stories of barriers and stories of success"* (Laurel Jebamani, VCH)
- *"ODs are related to watching too many people die"* (Delilah Gregg, WAHRS)
- *"Practising harm reduction can be a violation of parole"* (Barb Ellis, COELS)
- *"There are three year waitlists for housing and clients avoid DTES SROs for fear of relapsing"* (Leslee Montgomery, COELS)
- *"Red tape is attached to data and then data becomes out-dated... What we're doing is adding water to a bucket with a hole in it"* (Ashraf Mohammed, FNHA)
- *"By the time we get data, people have already died"* (Erin Gibson, FHA)
- *"Our first priority needs to be survival and preventing overdose deaths"* (Mark Tyndall, BCCDC)
- *"Need for pre-care while on waitlists. People are ready with no care available"* (Denise Bradshaw, Streethome)
- *"We need to hear real stories and put faces to the data"* (Soha Sabeti, FNHA)
- *"Staff are becoming Wounded Warriors and their roles have changed to will & estate workers"* (Cole McGillivray, VACFCS)
- *"It took two years for one client just to get an ID"* (Dorothy Brown, VAFCS)
- *"Stakeholder meetings need more representation from people with lived experiences"* (Lindsay Farrell, BCCSU)
- *"We need social connection and a network to share data"* (Debbie Krull, AFDS)