



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, September 13th, 2017

9:10 am to 11:15 am

VAFCS Theatre Room

Minutes

Present:

- Kevin Barlow- Chaired (MVAEC)
- Colter Long (MVAEC)
- Rocky James (MVAEC)
- Norm Leech (VACPC)
- Debbie Krull (Independent)
- Sarah Levine (VCH)
- Elizabeth Holiday (VCH)
- Brenda Wesley (Elder)
- Melissa Matheson (UNYA)
- Christopher Van Veen (CV)
- Blake Kendon (BCEHS)
- Malcolm Steinberg (SFU)
- Chas Desjarlais (VSB)
- Kenneth Tupper (BCCSU)
- Cheyenne Johnson (BCCSU)
- Robert Williams (Drummer)
- Grant (Atira)
- Linda (Atira)
- Lindsay Farrell (BCCSU)
- Christina Lahde (PHS)
- Patrick Smith (PHS)
- Theresa Campbell (Elder)
- Mike Kelly (Elder)
- Fawn Adolph (VAFCS)
- Aramis Padmos (PCC)
- Julie Foreman (PCC)
- Jennifer Funo (PHC)
- Mark Tyndall (BCCDC)
- Gabriella Emery (PHSA)
- Brianna Stevenson (PHSA)
- Barb Ellis (COELS)
- Nora Hanuse (AFDS)
- Roger Tourand (OOT)

Regrets: Ashraf Mohammed, Andrea Medley, Janine Stevenson, Andrea Derban, Jessica Cooksey, Holly Anderson, Giuseppe Ganci, Denise Bradshaw, Cody Callon, Peter Baker, Emma Sutherland, Russell Maynard, Rodney Olinek, Arthur Paul, Elise Durante, Fleurie Hunter, Fawn Adolph, Cheryl Ward, Christopher VanVeen, Scott Harrison, Soha Sabeti, Erin Gibson, Ruth Weller, Aura Masi, Janine Stevenson, Joe Acker, Danielle Mitchell, Lee Brown, Bree Beveridge, Eric Berndt, Margot Kuo, Donald MacPherson, & Zakary Zawaduk

Meeting opened at 9:10am

1. Opening prayer: Theresa Campbell

2. Old Business:

- I. Agenda accepted as presented.
- II. Presented results of *Shared Vision Workshop*
 - i. Please refer to the September UIOTF PPT slides for more details
 - ii. Looking at the continuum of care in sections may be too small scale. UIOTF has the capacity to create a "Big Care" model in response to opioid crisis, rather than simply connecting clients to care (Mark Tyndall, BCCDC).

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- iii. It may be more effective to implement new approaches now on the ground level, rather than waiting for approval of these methods from governances above.
 1. Radical treatments are currently in place and shown to be effective, however, funding continues to be an issue for sustaining these programs (Aramis Padmos, PCC).
- iv. There is a need for UIOTF to collectively adopt a shared framework to document improvements resulting from interventions to advocate for support from the BC Government (Norm Leech, VACPC).
 1. FNHA has released a working framework UIOTF may be able to adopt so a new one does need to be created. (Sarah Levine, VCH)
- v. Market-based solutions may be employed to make appeals to government. All products sold are safety-checked except street drugs. Drug patrol is needed to ensure safe consumption and accountability (Kenneth Tupper, BCCSU).
 1. The overdose crisis is a poisoning crisis requiring a spiritual movement in healthcare as a response (Patrick Smith, PHS).
- vi. Traditional Indigenous treatments have been successful and need to be considered at this time, such as, Iboga (Robert Williams, Drummer).
 1. Other traditional medicine treatments falling on the “beneficial” end of the *Spectrum of Psychoactive Substance Use* include peyote, ayahuasca, and nicotine. More information can be found in FNHA’s “*A Path Forward: BC First Nations and Aboriginal People’s Mental Wellness and Substance Use- 10 Year Plan*” on pg. 20 (http://www.fnha.ca/Documents/FNHA_MWSU.pdf). This is a time when alternative therapies can be explored and implemented (Kenneth Tupper, BCCSU).

3. New Business

I. Action Groups

- i. MVAEC suggested the large membership of UIOTF could be broken down into three initial sub-groups:
 1. An *Agenda Action Group* to make recommendations for meeting agendas
 2. An *Ask Action Group* to prepare recommendations for program funding and *Indigenous Collective Impact (ICI)* shared metrics strategies
 - a. Interest taken by Russell Maynard (PHS) and Norm Leech (VACPC)
 3. A *Cultural Healing Action Group* to organize healing space for UIOTF members, frontline workers, and the urban Indigenous community

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- a. Interest taken by Fawn Adolph (VAFCS) and Brenda Wesley (Elder)
 - ii. It was also suggested by Malcolm Steinberg (SFU) that an *Advocacy Action Group* be created to engage with the new provincial government's *Ministry of Mental Health & Addiction* to make recommendations and demands on behalf of UIOTF. There is an opportunity period between now and February to develop a working partnership with the BC Government.
 - iii. MVAEC announced it is in the development stage of creating awareness materials and an *Awareness Action Group* could also be formed to consult that project.
 - iv. Members interested in creating, chairing, or joining an action group are encouraged to contact Colter Long at projects@mvaec.ca.
- II. Presentation by PHS Community Services Society (Patrick Smith, PHS)
- i. Described *Culture Saves Lives* program and its successes of bringing low-barrier culture to those in the DTES. Introduced *First Nations Hub* at 1 E. Hastings as a safe healing place for reconnection of culture.
 - ii. There is a lack of culturally-informed low-barrier services aimed at inner-city Aboriginal people struggling with poverty. This population is at significantly higher risk of overdose. Collectively, UIOTF can advocate for more robust community-based services. The efforts need to include roles for those struggling with poverty as a concrete means to be included and feel connected to the solutions- to be the solutions (Russ Maynard, PHS).
- III. Discuss preferred information exchange methods
- i. An online survey will be sent out to assess members' preferred information medium, ie. Shared drive, newsletter, social media...
 - ii. UIOTF members who are not regularly attending meetings may still be contribute to and receive updates via the *UIOTF Information Exchange*.
- IV. New data reports
- i. Since the July UIOTF meeting, FNHA's "*Overdose Data and First Nations in BC*" and BCCDC & PHSA's "*BC Overdose Action Exchange II*" were released.
 - ii. These findings were not discussed in the meeting, however, highlights from the reports can be found in the September PPT slides and links to the report can be found on the shared drive.
 - iii. Highlighted information from the "*Truth & Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Calls to Action*", "*Urban Aboriginal Peoples Study: Vancouver Report*", and "Honouring our Strengths" are also included in the September slides to exhibit needs already found that UIOTF can address.

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iv. Updates:

1. **Urban Native Youth Association** (Mellissa Matheson):
 - a. Youth leaders will be available to participate in UIOTF meetings to share experience and relay information to community.
2. **BC Emergency Health Services** (Blake Kendon):
 - a. Bike squads have been added and are responding to overdose events that have not been called into 911.
 - b. People searching for naloxone kits while forgetting to call 911 has been observed as a concerning trend.
 - c. A new program has been created that pairs emergency responders with a social worker in a discrete roaming vehicle.
 - d. BCEHS received \$91 million to hire 300 additional staff and increase supports during cheque distribution weeks.
3. **BC Centre for Disease Control** (Margot Kuo via email):
 - a. FNHA and BCCDC have completed analyses on the *Provincial Opioid Overdose Cohort* and data from Status First Nations in the *First Nations Client File (FNCF)*.
 - Administrative datasets including hospitalizations, emergency room visits, & coroner's data are now available. This information includes data on youth overdose, male-female comparisons, & history of drug prescriptions.
 - b. The *Provincial Surveillance Task Force* group is developing more First Nations indicators for more real-time surveillance data streams.
 - c. BCCDC is developing block-parent style signage and stickers to show where naloxone/help is available. UIOTF members may be supportive in distributing these materials when they are completed.

V. Recommendations for next proposed meeting

- i. Meetings will be held approximately six weeks apart rather than four weeks.
- ii. The next proposed meeting will take place in the beginning on November.
- iii. Suggested that next meeting take place at VANDU to engage with more members of the community (Sarah Levine, VCH)

4. Closing prayer: Mike Kelly

5. Adjourned: at 11:15am