



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

Tuesday, February 6th, 2018

9:05 am to 11:05 am

VAFCS Room 10

Minutes: **DRAFT**

Present:

- Kevin Barlow- Chaired (MVAEC)
- Colter Long (MVAEC)
- Rocky James (MVAEC)
- Norm Leech (VACPC)
- Melissa Matheson (UNYA)
- Malcolm Steinberg (SFU)
- Fawn Adolph (VAFCS)
- Gabriella Emery (PHSA)
- Nora Hanuse (AFDS)
- Ashraf Mohammed (FNHA)
- Sara Young (BCCDC)
- Chas Desjarlais (VSB)
- Fleurie Hunter (UNYA)
- Jessy Dame (ARNBC)
- Patrick Smith (MVAEC)
- Chris Van Veen (OERC)
- Roshni Desai (FNHA)
- Brittany Martell (PHSA)
- Nel Wieman (FNHA)
- Rebecca Zappelli (CAI)
- Aramis Padmos (PHC)
- Katrina Blommart (BCCSU)
- Jeff Morgan (BCCSU)
- Erin Eydt (BCCSU)
- Monica Howard (VNHS)
- Perry Omeasoo (VCH)
- Susan Tatoosh (VAFCS)
- Katie Mai (BCCSU)
- Catherine Sanders (SFU)
- Laurel Jebamani (VCH)
- Dawn Tisdale (ARNBC)
- Charlene Hellson (VCH)
- Russell Maynard (PHS)
- Sandy Lamberts (DUDES)
- Jason Fitzpatrick (DUDES)

Meeting opened at 9:05 am



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I. Opening prayer: Rocky James

II. Old Business:

- i. Update on the written submission to the *BC Ministry of Mental Health & Addictions*
 - UIOTF Recommendations Report
 1. MVAEC has created a report of 11 recommendations brought forth from UIOTF members since inaugural meeting to be openly distributed to policy makers and stakeholders.
 2. Russ Maynard added that recommendations to support people are not to be conditional on abstinence. Recommendations Report was updated on February 16th, 2018 to include this.
- ii. *Talking Circle for Frontline Workers in Response to the Opioid Crisis*
 - A Talking Circle was hosted by MVAEC on December 15th, 2017 and facilitated by Elders Dr. Lee Brown & Shane Point. Attendees found event beneficial for supporting the stress of frontline workers.
 - Perry Omeasoo recommended talking circles be hosted quarterly and be closed events to reduce disruption and maintain group connectedness.
- iii. UIOTF's Continuation
 - Kevin Barlow informed the group of the proposal to VCH for an Indigenous mental health and wellness centre under MVAEC's subsidiary organization titled *Metro Vancouver Aboriginal Service Society (MVISS)*. MVISS has been established to fulfill the role of becoming a services hub. UIOTF will still be governed by MVAEC, however, services for group members, such as Talking Circles, can now operate under MVISS.
 - We are honoured to announce that Patrick Smith and the *Culture Saves Lives* program will be operating provincially as a part of MVAEC and will be linked to MVISS.
 - UIOTF will continue if *Community Action Initiative (CAI)* grant of \$20k - \$40k is successful. This can carry UIOTF until other funding is made available.
 - All members of UIOTF were asked to provide one support letter per each agency for the continuation of UIOTF. The template will be sent along with these minutes and members will be asked to submit the letter back on their organization's letterhead and be sent back to MVAEC by February 26th, 2018.

III. New business

- i. BCCSU Addiction Research
 - Presentations by Jeff Morgan, Erin Eydt, & Katrina Blommart
 - **Injectable Opioid Agonist Treatment Study**: Erin Eydt



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1. Injectable Opioid Agonist Treatment (iOAT) Study aims to research the effectiveness of this treatment in real life settings by assessing a range of health and social outcomes.
 - **Agonist opioids** activate the opioid receptors in the brain to induce the full opioid effect, like heroin or methadone.
 - **Antagonist opioid drugs** block opioids from binding with receptors, like naloxone.
 2. iOATs have been green-lighted and are currently being administered and BCCSU guidelines are availableⁱ.
 3. Russell Maynard asked how much it costs for one person to be on iOAT for one year. Erin provided the following response:
 - a. *"Past research has shown that heroin treatment is highly cost effective and can save millions of health care dollars. Studies conducted in Vancouver indicate that compared to methadone treatment, prescription heroin treatment of individuals with severe, treatment-resistant opioid use disorder realizes significant cost savings. For instance, monthly costs of iOAT were estimated at \$5,730 per person, while costs (including health resource utilization and criminal activity costs) for those not receiving treatment were estimated to be \$10,519 per person. Cost savings were primarily related to reduced criminal activity among those patients who had previously responded poorly to methadone maintenance treatment."*ⁱⁱ
 4. The study will include a sample of Indigenous participants for cross-cultural data comparisons.
 - **OPAC Study:** Jeff Morgan
 1. Study looks at after-care proceeding treatment for individuals with Substance Use Disorders (SUD). The study assesses health outcomes and service utilization post-discharge from St. Paul's hospital.
 - **Optima Study:** Katrina Blommart
 1. Randomized trials are to examine the models of care between methadone and Suboxone at the *Rapid Access & Assessment Centre (RAAC)* to generate new practise-based evidence for front-line service providers.
 - **Family Member and Caregiver Representatives Committee:** Katie Mai
 1. BCCSU is looking for three volunteer members to join the *Family Member and Caregiver Representatives Committee*ⁱⁱⁱ
 - a. Eligible candidates may have a loved one with an addiction or have lost someone to drug-related harms.
 - b. Indigenous people, youth, siblings, and people of colour are strongly encouraged to apply.
- ii. **RADAR: Bad Dope Reporting** – Sara Young (BCCDC)
 - *Real-time Drug Alert & Response (RADAR)* system is a tracking system where people can text reports of OD and alerts are then sent to the community.^{iv}
 - Anyone in VCH region can anonymously report overdoses that show unusual symptoms by texting "bad dope" to **(236) 999-DOPE (3673)** and can receive drug contamination alerts by texting "alert" to this number.



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- iii. **FNHA's Not Just Naloxone Training: *Talking about Substance Use in Indigenous Communities***
- FNHA is hosting a three-day workshop to train trainers of Indigenous harm reduction from March 26-28th.
 - MVAEC and UIOTF members can register themselves and colleagues at www.regonline.ca/naloxoneMVAEC before March 2nd.
 - This training will be offered again, but not for several months because the training will be delivered to other provincial locations before returning to Vancouver.
 - Registration does not guarantee enrollment and FNHA will be contacting all those who registered shortly after registration closes. For more information please contact Peyvand Fralick at Peyvand.fralick@fnha.ca
- iv. **The Overdose Emergency Response Centre (OERC) – Chris Van Veen (VCH)**
- The OERC was created by the Ministry of Mental Health & Addictions to reduce opioid overdose deaths, provide OAT, and dedicate funding to each health authority. The MMHA moves laterally amongst other provincial Ministries to ensure they are being accountable to their role in addressing the opioid crisis. Chris Van Veen (VCH) confirmed that up to \$100k will be awarded to each CAT and the team will decide how to spend the money for the entire community.^v Another stream in funding of \$1.5 Million will be made available by the province as *Innovative Funds* and are available for any agency to apply to.^{vi}
 - Eighteen Community Action Teams (CATs) have been announced:
 1. Vancouver, Richmond, Powell River, Surrey, Langley, Abbotsford, Maple Ridge, Chilliwack, Victoria, Campbell River, Nanaimo, Duncan, Port Alberni, Kelowna, Kamloops, Vernon, Prince George, & Ft. St. John
 2. CAT members will be selected to determine how funds of up to \$100k for each region will be distributed to support initiatives.^{vii}
 3. Chris Van Veen has moved from his position at the city to become *Director of Special Projects* for VCH. He will be working to set up the CATs in this region and will be reporting to the MMHA.
 4. Dr. Patricia Daly, VCH chief medical officer, is serving as the centre's executive lead and Miranda Compton is the director of operations.
 5. A working relationship with FNHA is built into the OERC's structure.
 6. Please see attached slides OERC Terms of Reference for more information.^{viii}
- v. **Other announcements and updates**
- Division of Family Practice and Association of Doctors should be included in UIOTF to advance the administration of iAOT to clients
 - Dr. Nel Weisman, Indigenous Physicians of Canada President and FNHA Senior Medical Officer – Mental Health & Wellness, announced she was joining UIOTF
 - Dr. Ashraf Mohammed (FNHA) announced the public forum *Understanding the Overdose and Opioid Epidemic* taking place at Science World on February 28th, 7pm – 9pm.^{ix}



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- Sandy Lambert (DUDES) announced that DUDES Club Squad (a peer driven, grass roots OD prevention initiative) is looking for a location in the DTES. The location would allow the squad to meet before doing their work and debrief after their shift. Privacy would be necessary to secure confidentiality. The location would allow for storage of vests and other supplies (coffee maker, snacks, Naloxone kits etc.) The location would have flexible hours that could allow the squad to work with other OD prevention groups in order provide support for folks who need it when they need it. The specific location would be with in a 10 block radius of 455 east Hastings street. Contact Jason at jason@dudesclub.ca.

vi. Other considerations

- There was unanimous agreement that UIOTF is not attempting to “fix” an addictions & treatment network because this implies that one already exists. Instead, members advocate for the establishment of a proactive addictions & treatment system, rather than the reactive, band aid approach that has been used so far. The UIOTF Recommendations Report has been updated to reflect this.
- Norm Leech (VACPC) expressed that drug legalization appears to be a process of sedating those impoverished who are in pain due to a system of wealth inequality.
- Patrick Smith (MVAEC) responded that he observes the new OERC structure appears to be more Indigenized because culture is a form of justice by definition. *“Culture: A way of thinking, behaving, or working that exists in a place or organization.”*
- Wanda Pelletier (WISH) shared her personal story regarding her 19-year old son and his struggle with mental health in the DTES. She explained that VGH’s AAC turned him away when he had relapsed and presented psychosis. He is now 60 days sober and well without the help of the system. Wanda recommends that tools and support must be available to Indigenous people as an alternative to depending on a failed system. UIOTF Recommendations Report has been updated to reflect this.

vii. Action Items

- Submit UIOTF support letters to MVAEC
- Apply to CAI OPEN Project funding for continuation of UIOTF
- Find DTES location for DUDES Club supplies and debriefing
- Register workers for FNHA’s Not Just Naloxone Training
- ✓ Update UIOTF Recommendations Report
- Invite Division of Family Physicians
- Invite Association of Doctors BC
- Invite Association of Counsellors BC
- Invite Association of Psychologists BC

IV. Closing prayer

V. Adjourned: at 11:05 am



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Attendee Contact List

Name	Email	Position	Organization
Adolph, Fawn	navigator@vafcs.org	Navigator/HOP/HPP	Vancouver Aboriginal Friendship Centre Society
Barlow, Kevin	ceo@mvaec.ca	Chief Executive Officer	Metro Vancouver Aboriginal Executive Council
Blommaert, Katrina	kblommaert@cfenet.ubc	Researcher	BC Centre on Substance Use
Dame, Jessy	jdame@arnbc.ca	Registered Nurse	Association of Registered Nurses BC
Desjarlais, Chas	cdesjarlai@vsb.bc.ca	District Vice-Principal – Aboriginal Education	Vancouver Board of Education
Desai, Roshni	roshni.desai@fnha.ca	Data Analyst	First Nations Health Authority
Emery, Gabriella	gabriella.emery@phsa.ca	Aboriginal Health	Provincial Health Services Authority
Eydt, Erin	eeydt@cfenet.ubc.ca	Project Coordinator	BC Centre on Substance Use
Fitzpatrick, Jason	jason@dudesclub.ca	Practicum Student	DUDES Club
Hanuse, Nora	nora@abfrontdoor.com	Housing Navigator	Aboriginal Front Door Society
Hellson, Charlene	charlene.hellson@vch.ca	Mental Wellness Resource Coordinator	Vancouver Coastal Health
Howard, Monica	monica.acfss@vnhs.net	Family Support Worker – Team Leader	Vancouver Native Health Society
Hunter, Fleurie	fleurie.hunter@unya.bc.ca	Director of Clinical Programs	Urban Native Youth Association
James, Rocky	policy@mvaec.ca	Community Engagement & Policy Analyst	Metro Vancouver Aboriginal Executive Council
Jebamani, Laurel	laurel.jebamani@vch.ca	Aboriginal Health Lead	Vancouver Coastal Health
Lambert, Sandy	sandy@dudesclub.ca	Elder/External Liaison	DUDES Club
Leech, Norm	coordinator@vacpc.org	Executive Director	Vancouver Aboriginal Community Policing Centre
Long, Colter	projects@mvaec.ca	Projects Officer	Metro Vancouver Aboriginal Executive Council
Mai, Katie	kmai@cfenet.ubc.ca	Stakeholder Engagement Coordinator	BC Centre on Substance Use
Martell, Brittany	brittany.martell@phsa.ca	Provincial Overdose Mobile Response Team	Provincial Health Services Authority
Matheson, Melissa	leadershipcoordinator@unya.bc.ca	Youth Leadership Coordinator	Urban Native Youth Association



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Maynard, Russ	russellm@phs.ca	Policy and Research	PHS Community Services Society
Dr. Mohammed, Ashraf	ashraf.mohammed@fnha.ca	Director, Health Surveillance	First Nations Health Authority
Omeasoo, Perry	perry.omeasoo@vch.ca	Aboriginal Mental Health Liaison	Vancouver Coastal Health
Padmos, Aramis	apadmos@providencehealth.bc.ca	Clinic Assistant – Outreach	Providence Crosstown Clinic
Sanders, Catherine	csanders@sfu.ca	Masters of Public Health Student	Simon Fraser University
Smith, Patrick	culture@mvaec.ca	Culture Saves Lives	Metro Vancouver Aboriginal Executive Council
Steinberg, Malcolm	malcolm_steinberg@sfu.ca	Dean, Public Health	Simon Fraser University
Tisdale, Dawn	dtisdale@arnbc.ca	Lead, IGNITE and Professional Development	Association of Registered Nurses of BC
Tatoosh, Susan	executivedirector@vafcs.org	Executive Director	Vancouver Aboriginal Friendship Centre Society
Van Veen, Chris	chris.vanveen@vch.ca	Director, Special Projects	Vancouver Coastal Health
Dr. Wieman, Nel	nel.wieman@fnha.ca	Senior Medical Officer, Mental Health & Wellness	First Nations Health Authority
Young, Sara	sara.young@bccdc.ca	Regional Leader, Mental Health & Substance Use	BC Centre for Disease Control
Zappelli, Rebecca	rzappelli@communityactioninitiative.ca	Secretariat Director	Community Action Initiative

ⁱ <http://www.bccsu.ca/news-release/provincial-guidelines-for-injectable-opioid-treatments-released/>

ⁱⁱ Nosyk, et al. (2012) Cost-effectiveness of diacetylmorphine versus methadone for chronic opioid dependence refractory to treatment. *Canadian Medical Association Journal*, 184(6). doi:10.1503/cmaj.110669

ⁱⁱⁱ <http://www.bccsu.ca/news-release/open-call-for-applications-family-member-and-caregiver-representatives-committee/>

^{iv} <http://www.vch.ca/about-us/news/new-alert-system-starts-for-bad-dope>

^v https://archive.news.gov.bc.ca/releases/news_releases_2017-2021/2018MMHA0002-000137.htm

^{vi} <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/overdose/how-the-province-is-responding>

^{vii} <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2018MMHA0002-000137>

^{viii} https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/overdose-awareness/terms_of_reference_nov_30_final.pdf

^{ix} <https://www.scienceworld.ca/understanding-opioid-crisis>