



Metro Vancouver Aboriginal Executive Council

100 – 2732 East Hastings Street
Vancouver, BC, V5K 1Z9
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

Thursday, September 6th, 2018

1:10 p.m. to 3:05 p.m.

Ground Floor Office - MVISS

Minutes: **DRAFT**

Present:

- Kevin Barlow- Chair (MVAEC)
- Lee Brown (UBC) -Elder
- Colter Long (MVAEC) –Facilitator
- Rocky James (MVAEC)
- Sherry Small (MVAEC)
- Monica Howard (VNHS)
- James Hunter (VAFCS)
- Gabriella Emery (PHSA)
- Roshni Desai (FNHA)
- Riley David (FNHA)
- Laurel Jebamani (VCH)
- Sarah Levine (VCH)
- Russell Maynard (PHS)
- Frank Cohn (DUDES)
- Emily Sollows (BCCDC)
- Jason Hsieh (COV)
- Leo Kiu (SUCCESS)
- Wendy Simon (NEC)

Meeting opened at 1:10 p.m.

1. **Opening prayer:** Dr. Lee Brown

2. **Old business**

I. **Update on Metro Vancouver Indigenous Services Society (MVISS)**

- See attached Meeting Handout and visit www.mviss.ca
- MVISS Open House will be held October 25th from 10:00 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the MVISS offices – 100 – 2732 E Hastings St (Slocan & Hastings)

II. **UIOTF Webpage**

- See attached Meeting Handout and visit <http://www.mvaec.ca/urban-indigenous-opioid-task-force>

3. **New business**

- I. **Survey results on top priorities identified by UIOTF members**
II. **Open forum discussion on priorities to identify:**



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a. What's working well?

- UIOTF members offering *Letters of Support* to other partners in our network
- The centralization of services in the DTES
- Organizations pooling resources to operate, for example PAFNW¹ sharing a bus with Aboriginal Mother's Centre² for trips to the UBC Farm³
- Lu'ma Native Housing⁴ being approved for sweat lodge that can be shared with other organizations
- Funding proposals that are submitted in partnership with other organizations
- More communities are willing to have discussions about harm reduction
- DUDES Club has partnered with FNHA to replicate their programming in 16 rural communities

b. What needs to be done?

- Partnerships between service providers and funders may be established
- Need for an Indigenous-led treatment centre like the NNADAP facilities⁵ in downtown Vancouver that offer traditional medicines and offers access to land-based healing activities
- More services are needed across the Metro Vancouver area
- MVISS model of care may be mobilized to operate in rural areas across BC
- Additional funding is needed for Indigenous programming to enable land-based activities, like purchasing and operating a van to transport clients
- Cultural competency training offered by Indigenous organizations needs to be funded adequately, either by non-Indigenous organizations requesting it or by public funders
- Modular housing can partner with programs like the UBC Farm to provide low-barrier housing and access to land and the ability to grow traditional medicines
- Better aftercare and integration back into community after treatment

¹ <https://pafnw.wordpress.com/>

² <http://www.aboriginalmothercentre.ca/>

³ <http://ubcfarm.ubc.ca/community/indigenous-initiatives/>

⁴ <http://lnhs.ca/>

⁵ <http://www.fnha.ca/what-we-do/mental-wellness-and-substance-use/treatment-centres>



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c. Where do we go from here?

- Recommended that group should focus on the priorities that have most potential for immediate success
- Recommendation that MVAEC/MVISS look into joining other networks such as:
 - The “Primary Care Strategy”⁶ to show how primary care responses can be Indigenized
 - MVAEC/MVISS may also look into joining BC Association of Community Health Centres (BCACHC)⁷
 - The Metro Alliance Meeting⁸
- The language for UIOTF Recommendations can be translated to move an issue towards action
 - “*Culture as Necessity*” as opposed to “*Culture as Treatment*”
 - Options for harm reduction must be at the forefront of discussions and balanced to the treatment-focused recommendations
 - Words like “support” and “care” can be used as alternatives to “treatment”
 - *UIOTF Recommendations Report* should be prefaced with the history of Indigenous culture being punishable by law to explain that culture must be the foundation of any overdose response
 - *UIOTF Recommendations Report* can be summarized into a few key themes
- A “*Temperature Check*”⁹ for non-Indigenous organizations to show how they are implementing Truth & Reconciliation¹⁰ and practice cultural humility
 - A template could be created for organizations to show what indicators can be used to measure their effectiveness

⁶ <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2018PREM0034-001010>

⁷ <https://www.bcachc.org/aboutus/>

⁸ <https://www.metvanalliance.org/>

⁹ <https://www.clinks.org/sites/default/files/basic/files-downloads/Clinks%20Take%20your%20temperature%20July%202013.pdf>

¹⁰ http://www.trc.ca/websites/trcinstitution/File/2015/Findings/Calls_to_Action_English2.pdf



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III. Identify actionable items for UIOTF member & issues to be presented to OERC's Community Action Teams

a. Internal action items

- Redraft UIOTF Recommendations Report to modify language and provide more context to why culture is needed for opioid response
- Share how Indigenous organizations can share resources to enable access to land-based healing activities
- MVAEC to explore eligibility of joining other primary care networks

b. Items for Community Action Team's "Issues Log"

- Recommend health organizations Temperature Check their cultural humility practices
- Advocate for Culture as Treatment to be acknowledged as the foundation for any opioid response and provide examples developed by MVISS Cultural Workers

IV. Other announcements and updates

a. Focus Groups

- Six focus group session will be conducted as a part of MVAEC's Opioid Response: Knowledge Translation Plan
- The Youth Focus Group was conducted on August 30th and UIOTF's Advisory Team is organizing the upcoming sessions

b. Structure of UIOTF Meetings is to reflect Indigenous culture

- Land Acknowledgement needed at meeting opening
- Meetings are to be held in the structure of a circle
- Gender roles to be more inclusive and power between men and women to be equally balanced (remove physical barriers that imply power difference, like boardroom table)
- Meetings to begin with member introductions
- Need to ask the question "What can we do in this room to change lives today?"



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- c. **MVAEC will be hosting a regional discussion on housing.** Details TBA once finalized.
 - d. Future Meeting Dates: **Thursday, November 8th** from 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
 - e. Programs offered at *Pacific Association of First Nations Women (PAFNW)*
 - The *Not Just Naloxone* harm reduction training will be offered by PAFNW and facilitated by Velma Albert on September 10th
 - The *Indigenous Women Rise* program will be offering a drum circle every Tuesday night from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. free to Indigenous women at the *Aboriginal Mother Centre*
4. Closing prayer: Dr. Lee Brown
 5. Adjournment 3:05 p.m.



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Attendee Contact List

Name	Email	Position	Organization
Ahenakew, Curtis	culturaloutreach@vafcs.org	Cultural Worker	Vancouver Aboriginal Friendship Centre Society
Barlow, Kevin	ceo@mvaec.ca	Chief Executive Officer	Metro Vancouver Aboriginal Executive Council
Bissonnette, Elaine	reception@mvis.ca	Reception	Metro Vancouver Indigenous Services Society
Dr. Brown, Lee	flbrown19@shaw.ca	Elder	Global Emotional Education Association
Cohn, Frank	frankcohn@gmail.com	Director	DUDES Club
David, Riley	riley.david@fnha.ca	Addictions Specialist	First Nations Health Authority
Day, Diana	diana.day@pafnw.ca	Lead Matriarch	Pacific Association of First Nations Women
Desai, Roshni	roshni.desai@fnha.ca	Data Analyst	First Nations Health Authority
Emery, Gabriella	gabriella.emery@phsa.ca	Aboriginal Health	Provincial Health Services Authority
George, Paula	intake@mvis.ca	Intake Worker/Navigator	Metro Vancouver Indigenous Services Society
Howard, Monica	monica.acfss@vnhs.net	Family Support Worker – Team Leader	Vancouver Native Health Society
Hunter, James	communityhousingnavigator@vafcs.org	Housing Navigator	Vancouver Aboriginal Friendship Centre Society
Hsieh, Jason	jason.hsieh@vancouver.ca	Sustainability Specialist	City of Vancouver
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
Kiu, Leo	Leo.kiu@success.bc.ca	Interim Regional Manager	S.U.C.C.E.S.S.
Levine, Sarah	sarah.levine@vch.ca	Harm Reduction & Sexual Health Nurse Educator	Vancouver Coastal Health
Long, Colter	projects@mvaec.ca	Projects Officer	Metro Vancouver Aboriginal Executive Council
Maynard, Russ	russellm@phs.ca	Policy and Research	PHS Community Services Society
Simon, Wendy	wsimon@necvancouver.org	Dean, Student Services	Native Education College
Small, Sherry	programs@mvaec.ca	Program Officer	Metro Vancouver Aboriginal Executive Council
Sollows, Emily	Emily.sollows@bccdc.ca	Harm Reduction Nurse & Educator	BC Centre for Disease Control
Steinberg, Malcolm	malcolm_steinberg@sfu.ca	Dean, Public Health	Simon Fraser University