



Interior Health

ABORIGINAL HEALTH



Aboriginal Health and Wellness Plan and Transformative Change Accord Accomplishments and Next Steps

The Aboriginal Health and Wellness Plan has 8 targeted strategic priorities which consist of: Cross Cultural Education, Early Childhood Development, Mental Health and Addictions, Elder Care, Communicable Disease, Communication, Injury Prevention, and Collaboration. The following summary will highlight some of Interior Health's accomplishments and the steps recommended to take in the future.

Cross Cultural Education

Interior Health has just increased the capacity of the Aboriginal health team through the hiring of a Cultural Education Coordinator. This position acts as an internal consultant and facilitator to manage the development, implementation, evaluation and continuous improvement of culturally safe practices. Through work with First Nations in the interior the Cultural Education Coordinator works collaboratively toward system wide improvements in the delivery of culturally safe care and will be available for participation in provincial working groups.

Interior Health is also supporting a number of cultural awareness/competency training projects and evaluating/assessing the experiences of both the learners and facilitators in order to support consistent training approaches that result in culturally competent care. These include, but are not limited to, some of the following: UBCO and Okanagan First Nation and Aboriginal peoples work on a CIHR grant which will pilot cultural competency training in the maternity ward and emergency department of Vernon Jubilee Hospital, support and collaboration for a Cultural Safety, Cultural Symposium hosted by UBCO, Population Health focus group on the UVIC Cultural Safety Modules, 1st Annual IH Aboriginal Conference in 2007 and support to Residential School Survivors on the day of the federal government apology.

Next steps to be taken include: HR assessing possible process for Cultural Safety Training to a broader number of IH employees, develop tools for management, as well as host the 2nd Annual Aboriginal Health Conference.

Early Childhood Development

The successes that have been shown in ECD consist of Early Intervention with a family which includes, and aligns with the TCA 10th goal for screening with dental, vision and hearing. Interior Health reached out to 21 on reserve schools with Kindergarten programs and included those who chose to participate in the roll out of vision screening.

Public Health Core Competencies have shown specific targets to the Aboriginal population in dental. Interior Health's Director of Aboriginal was appointed and participated on the Child Death Review Unit with the Chief Coroner's office to assist with a health authority lens.

Next steps for ECD include: Target pre-school for vision screening in the Spring of 09, as of December 08 hearing screening for Aboriginal/ First Nation newborns will be accomplished by finalizing screening for all newborns born in an IH facility.

Mental Health and Addictions

The Aboriginal Team in IH has made MH & A one of 3 main priorities for their 08/09 work plan. Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIT) has been facilitated to 5 Aboriginal communities. A member of the Aboriginal Team participates on the Core Review for Mental Health Promotion and Disorder. IH invested in a contract for Urban Aboriginal addiction services over and above the Aboriginal targeted funds and when training IH MH & ADS are opening seats for training to First Nation and aboriginal stakeholders at no cost.

In the future the Aboriginal Health Team will continue to consult on existing strategies, have priorities for initiatives for youth and MH, as well as play a role of consultation with the provincial strategy for Indian Residential School Survivors, BC 10 year strategy and the First Nation, Inuit Métis Advisory to the Mental Health Commission of Canada.

Elder Care

Adult Guardianship workshops have been facilitated to communities with the assistance of the Aboriginal Team. Currently the Okanagan Indian Band is developing a residential care facility and IH has been networking with this band as they opened their facility. The Aboriginal Patient Navigators will play a vital role in guiding and leading the elderly through the clinical pathways. Aboriginal Health has also supported the Secwepemc Injury Surveillance project.

Home and Community Care have just included Aboriginal goals in their strategic plan. The Aboriginal Fall Strategy will be included in next steps as well. Expansion through tele/video conferences will enhance services for the elderly.

Communicable Disease

Many accomplishments have been achieved in this area, including; 2 seats - 1 for FNIH and 1 for First Nations on the CDC Unit Steering committee, meeting of Aboriginal stakeholders for input to Blood Borne Pathogen Plan, negotiation of an LOU for coordinated CDC protocols with the Secwepemc, a nurse practitioner administered 36 paps at a Woman's Wellness clinic on reserve and Pandemic Planning coordination with FNIHB and AHTF.

There still needs to be increased communication for CDC and Pandemic influenza response for next steps.

Injury Prevention

Continue to support the Secwepmec Injury Surveillance. There has been 75 community trained practitioners in Aboriginal and Elder falls. Currently there is a Data Sharing Protocol with 100 Mile House and Williams Lake hospitals and local First Nations. IH has provided seed funds to 10 communities who are currently developing individual strategies in order to produce 1 nation strategy around injury prevention.

Collaboration and Communication

With the expansion of the Aboriginal Team there is continuous collaboration on going with several departments. Aboriginal Health is a standing agenda item at both Board and Senior Executive Team meetings. Communication with all stakeholders remains the biggest challenge and is currently accomplished through face to face meetings, electronic distribution to staff and community members, an updated Aboriginal Service Guide, as well as the Aboriginal Health and Wellness conference and web page.

Interior Health has also just partnered with the FNHC and will be co-locating the FNHC community developer with the Aboriginal Health team at Interior Health in the first tripartite office at a regional level.