



Provincial Health Services Authority Update

The PHSA filled the newly created Aboriginal Director position in late June.

The draft PHSA Aboriginal health plan has been sent to the PHSA Aboriginal subcommittee for review and feedback. We expect to have senior executive support and board approval for the plan in late fall.

The plan is based on the following:

- PHSA GLE, and service plan deliverables,
- PHSA 2008/2009 – 2010/2011 Service Plan Performance Agreement
- PHSA Strategic Plan and individual agency plans.
- Transformative Change Accord First Nations Health Plan
- Métis Nation BC Accord
- Strategic planning session of the Aboriginal subcommittee (June 13)

The PHSA Aboriginal subcommittee is comprised of Aboriginal staff, leads for Aboriginal health of the eight PHSA agencies and departments such as Public and Population Health, Human Resources, Finance, and the Chief Nursing Officer. The committee is inclusive of the aboriginal community health related sector, including:

- First Nations Health Council
- Métis Nation BC
- United Native Nations
- BC Aboriginal Network on Disabilities Society
- BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres

Some highlights of the PHSA Aboriginal health plan are:

1. Improve Aboriginal maternal health outcomes
2. Support the Renewing Our Response to Aboriginal HIV/AIDS
3. Establish provincial Aboriginal health liaison network and provide training to Aboriginal Health Navigator/Liaisons.
4. Develop and implement a multi-level facilitated on-line cultural competency training program for all PHSA staff.

5. Implement a PHSA Aboriginal human resource strategy.
6. Collaborate with the First Nations Health Council and the BC Métis Nation to strengthen public health and communicable disease response in communities.
7. Support the First Nations Leadership Council in their development of and implementation plan for the Aboriginal community health survey. (In the FNHP PHSA is identified as the lead, but we defer to the FNHC in respect of OCAP).

The First Nations Health Plan was one of the primary documents from which our plan was developed, and with representation of the First Nations Health Council on our Aboriginal Sub Committee, we believe we are closely aligned with the First Nations Health Plan.

The Aboriginal Subcommittee will meet again shortly to prioritize the action items of the draft Aboriginal Health Plan and to more accurately identify specific targets and goals as well as ways to measure outcomes.

We are putting together a proposal to increase the number of aboriginal patient liaisons within the agencies, (BC Children's BC Cancer, BC Renal) and looking at budget to see if we can bring in an aboriginal contractor to assist us in achieving our goals.

Progress to date:

Aboriginal Maternal Health project – a First Nations Nurse Lead heads the Aboriginal Perinatal Health Program and has begun development of an Aboriginal specific doula training program for Aboriginal women, which is also intended as a laddering program to encourage Aboriginal women to consider training and employment in the health sector.

The PHSA Director has contracted an Aboriginal curriculum developer and facilitator to develop a facilitated on-line cultural competency training program. The training will consist of about 15 hours of training with the final three hours specific to the region, or related to profession.

The program will be piloted with BC Mental Health and Addictions staff.

This training will be made available to the Aboriginal Patient Liaisons throughout the health authorities.