



**Regional Wellness Council Meeting
June 23, 2017
Inuvik Regional Hospital Boardroom and Via Telehealth**

In Attendance

Ms. Ethel Jean Gruben, Chair
Ms. Annie Isabel Goose (on Telehealth)
Ms. Denise McDonald
Ms. Ellen Smith

Regrets

Ms. Donna Keogak
Ms. Eileen M. Koe

Staff

Ms. Arlene Jorgensen, Chief Operating Officer

1. Call To Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:20 p.m. The Chair welcomed attendees and introductions were made.

2. Reflection / Prayer

Ms. McDonald led the group in an opening prayer.

3. Attendance

Council members in attendance are noted above. The Beaufort-Delta Region (BDR) Regional Wellness Council (RWC) has one vacancy with the official resignation of Don Gillis. Another one-year term position will soon be over and process to have these filled is uncertain.

There were seven members of the public in attendance.

4. Approval of Agenda



Moved by Ellen Smith, seconded by Denise McDonald, that the June 23, 2017 agenda for the Beaufort-Delta Regional Wellness Council meeting be approved with the addition of a presentation from a guest.

Carried

5. Previous Meeting Minutes – Review and Approval

Moved by Denise McDonald, seconded by Annie Goose, that the minutes from the Beaufort-Delta Regional Wellness Council February 18, 2017 public meeting be approved.

Carried

Approved minutes cannot be posted on the government website until they are translated into French. A scanned copy can be sent to anyone who requests the. A copy will be sent to the Gwich'in Tribal Council (GTC) and the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation (IRC).

Guest Presentation – Beaufort Delta Detox Society

Mr. Winston Moses, Ms. Susan Peffer and Mr. Joey Amos addressed the RWC. Past practice has been to send clients south for detox which is costly and not time sensitive. Clients are often lonesome and shy so don't always respond well to southern style services. The Society appreciates the good working relationship they have with existing government service providers and believes there are sufficient local northern cultural resources for detox services to be provided in Inuvik. This would include regional clients. The Society has GTC support and is working to get the same from IRC. The Beaufort Delta Detox Society will be holding their Annual General Meeting on Monday June 26, 2017 at 7:30 p.m. in the Inuvik Centennial Library meeting room.

The Society is at the very initial stages of establishing their mandate.

RWC members encouraged the group to be very clear on what they are asking the Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS) to assist them with. Documents on past surveys/studies exist and should be reviewed, the Minister's Forum on addictions states priorities already identified.

Action: The BDR-RWC will provide the Society with a letter of support.

1:50 p.m. Mr. Moses and Ms. Peffer left the meeting

6. Business Arising From the Previous Meeting Minutes



The COO went over meeting package included materials:

- a) updates to the existing *BDR Action List*
- b) information from the DHSS Mental Health Director on the *Mental Health Action Plan* and the *Child and Youth Action Plan* from the DHSS Mental Health Director
- c) BDR Policy ADM.202 – Complaints

7. Chairperson Report

From the Northwest Territories Health and Social Services (NTHSSA) Leadership Council:

- a) Each RWC is developing their own Terms of Reference.
- b) There are no RWC by-laws so each is following those of the NTHSSA.
- c) Each RWC is struggling with many of the same issues that the BDR is.
- d) RWCs have been assured they are not just ‘recommendation boards.’
- e) RWCs will likely be brought in for an inclusive meeting in the fall.
- f) Funding is being made available for each RWC to do strategic plans.
- g) The inaugural year of the NTHSSA has been spent on getting itself operational. There were many issues to deal with (i.e. 14 individual bank accounts down to one) and much focus on transition of employees.
- h) The Leadership Council’s meeting in February 2017 was productive.
- i) The Leadership Council March 2017 minutes do not reflect many concerns she brought to that meeting.
- j) The Leadership Council will be holding a meeting in Inuvik in July 2017.
- k) The Leadership Council has discussed:
 - I. Terms of the RWC Chairs
 - II. Suicide concerns
 - III. The #1 client concern is Medical Travel
 - IV. For the government departments to work more closely (i.e. developing a plan for housing the homeless which impacts the families of these clients too)

Mackenzie Delta M.L.A. Frederick Blake was in attendance and told the RWC a pilot project 4-plex unit has been identified under the homeless initiative for Aklavik.

Ms. Gruben stressed that there is a need for life-skills programs to enhance the healing needed from years of the residential school impacts. She expressed optimism in the recent increase of national attention to the indigenous people. Ms. Gruben stated it is important to acknowledge the good work being done and the COO will continue to relay this to the front-line staff. The RWC acknowledged it can be difficult for employees who live far from their southern families.



M.L.A. Blake said the Government of the Northwest Territories is doing a mid-term review in the fall and expects some positive changes will be revealed. Unfortunately, some of the negative feedback is based on the opinions of only a handful of residents.

8. RWC Member Observations and Comments

Ms. Annie Isabel Goose

- Received an update on the Clerk Interpreter position for the Emegak Health and Social Services Center which is being discussed with the community's leaders and NTHSSA officials.
- Is pleased that the importance of concerns brought forward is validated.
- Stressed that the region's communities need to approach issues as a collective.
- Appreciates the assistance from the Community Counselling Program staff when communities need their expertise.
- The communities hold many positive cultural events.

Ms. Ellen Smith

- Appreciates the assistance of BDR staff in dealing with issues brought to her.
- Expressed concern that the professional staff uses terminology that can intimidate their clients and stressed that staff should receive education on using the local lingo and cultural practices. Many clients are shy and can feel they are being talked down to which will 'shut them down.'
- Feels the need for interpreters continues.
- Feels often our medical patients do not receive enough tests and/or x-rays to get proper diagnosis.
- Continually thanks the health centre staff for the work they do.

Ms. Denise McDonald

- Is still not clear on the role of the RWC.
- Ms. McDonald emphasized that the RWC members are representing the entire region, not just a particular community. Ms. McDonald informed others that her focus continues to be as an advocate for the young people of this region. She believes there is a particular need for our young men to receive guidance in making healthy decisions.
- Believes the RWC should consider promotion of good health rather than focus on illnesses. She feels the RWC role is to raise the people up (i.e. get into the school curriculum to promote good food, activities and lifestyles).



The Chair added some comments:

- Ms. Gruben believes if southern policies are not working they should be changed to better suit the needs of northern culture/realities.
- Northern leaders today are in a unique position to have an impact on future policies.
- It is important that stigmas are removed for men seeking help.
- More northern role models need to be promoted.
- Aboriginal groups need more funding to run healthy lifestyle programming.

2:48 p.m. Recess

Ms. Goose left the meeting

all members of the public departed - except two

3:00 p.m. Reconvened

Ms. Denise McDonald – additional comments

Because indigenous leaders are not always available for programming it is necessary to consider how non-indigenous role models can be optimally used. For example, at a recent school event non-indigenous teachers taught the importance of land preservation through reduced use of plastic water bottles.

9. Projects and Priorities

Discussion was held on meeting package enclosures:

a) NTHSSA BDR RWC Issues and Priorities – Territorial Issues / Priorities

- This document will be used by the Chair for presentations at the Leadership Council meetings.

b) NTHSSA BDR RWC Issues and Priorities – Regional Issues / Priorities

- Statistics NWT shows Fort McPherson, Tuktoyaktuk and Ulukhaktok to have the highest number of aboriginal language speakers, those health centres will be getting an additional Clerk Interpreters positions – Half time in Ft. McPherson and Ulukhaktok and full time in Tuktoyaktuk. The Job Descriptions are being updated at this time.
- The ability to access territorial developed health promotion and educational materials is more effective, than developing these internally.

- Concern was expressed about the safety of our elders and children with the increase in Inuvik's homeless population and RWC members felt an increased presence of the RCMP would be beneficial.
- Discussion included
 - School year calendars set up to accommodate cultural priorities
 - Failure rates of adult education
- There is never enough money

3:30 p.m. M.L.A Blake departed

c) RWC COO Report to BDR

Ms. Jorgensen did a PowerPoint presentation (included in the meeting package). The RWC all expressed appreciation for this report stating it is a useful tool for their reporting purposes.

10. Learning, Development and Innovation

a) Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada Calls to Action

Council members were encouraged to read the meeting package inclusions:

- Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada Calls to Action – Overview for BDR RWC
- *Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada Calls to Action report*
- *Meeting the Challenge of Reconciliation: The Government of the Northwest Territories response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada Calls to Action*

Prior to the 94 recommendations from the Commission people were already working towards them and the RWC expressed appreciation for that work and looks forward to continuing towards improvements.

11. Decision Items and Recommendations to the NTHSSA Leadership Council

Ms. Gruben appreciates input from Council members on items to bring to the Leadership Council meetings. It is an evolving group and other regions face many of the same struggles as the BDR. A handbook is being developed.

The NTHSSA need to address the unrealistic quick turn-around for existing Council members interested in reapplying.



Action: The Chair will recommend Ms. Denise McDonald's application to remain on the BDR-RWC.

12. Action Items Review

In future, the draft Action Items document will be emailed to RWC members for input prior to the Chair taking it to the Leadership Council.

13. Closing Reflections / Prayer

September 3, 2017 is the next face-to-face meeting of the BDR-RWC.
Meeting is to begin at 9:00 a.m.

14. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

Recorded by: Mary-Ann Ross

Minutes approved by the NTHSSA – Beaufort Delta Region Regional Wellness Council

On the 24th day of November, 2017


Ethel Jean Gruben, Council Chair