

Yellowknife Regional Wellness Council Meeting Agenda

Wednesday, May 28, 2025

1:00 PM – 3:00PM

Location: Elders Day Facility, Fort Resolution Microsoft

Teams: 1 867-675-1042 | Code: 556 666 457#

Video Conference ID: 112 499 025 5

Mission: Working with people to optimize wellbeing through the provision of collaborative and culturally appropriate health and social service

Vision: Healthy People, Healthy Families, Healthy Communities

Values: Collaboration Accountability Integrity Respect

Cultural safety: An outcome where Indigenous peoples feel safe and respected, free of racism and discrimination, when accessing health and social services.

Acknowledgment of Land: We acknowledge that we are in the Chief Drygeese territory.

From time immemorial, it has been the traditional land of the Yellowknives Dene

First Nation, and more recently, the homeland of the North Slave Métis.

We respect the histories, languages, and cultures of First Nations, Metis, Inuit, and all First Peoples of Canada, whose presence continues to enrich our vibrant community.

Members:

☐ Nancy Trotter, Chair - regrets

☐ Gloria Enzoe

☒ Nancy Cymbalisty

☒ Jennifer Drygeese

☒ Gilbert Langsi

☐ Lindsay Debassige - regrets

☒ Brandie Miersch

Employees:

☒ Jennifer Torode

☒ Shannon Ploughman

Guests:

☐ Arlene Lavoie-Stobbs and Team

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#	Item	Time	Responsibility
1.0	Call to Order		Vice Chair
2.0	Welcome & Introductions, Opening Prayer		Vice Chair Elder
	3.1 Acknowledgement of traditional territory		Vice Chair
	3.2 Safety Overview		Athena Wells
4.0	Guest Speakers		
	4.1 Child, Family and Community Wellness • Presentation Attached		Arlene Lavoie-Stobbs and team

Northwest Territories Health and Social Services
Authority

Box 1320, Yellowknife, NT
X1A 2L9
Yellowknife Region

Administration des services de santé et des
services sociaux des Territoires du Nord-Ouest

C.P. 1320, Yellowknife, NT
X1A 2L9
Région de Yellowknife

	<p>Overview of Child and Family Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> introduces the legal foundations of Child and Family Services, including the Child and Family Services Act, the Aboriginal Custom Adoption Act, and the federal act. explains the importance of these acts in protecting children and promoting their well-being. discusses the standards for Child and Family Services workers, emphasizing the commitment to indigenous children, youth, and families. highlights the best interest factors to consider when assessing and supporting families. <p>Federal Act and Indigenous Involvement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> explains the federal act, which came into effect on January 1, 2020, and its impact on Child and Family Services. discusses the importance of indigenous governing bodies and Aboriginal organizations in the decision-making process. Question: asks about the involvement of non-settled indigenous bodies, and Arlene explains the process of drawing down jurisdiction. emphasizes the need for proactive engagement with indigenous communities to support families effectively. <p>Placement Priorities and Family Support</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> outlines the placement priorities for children in need of out-of-home care, emphasizing the importance of family involvement. discusses the financial and emotional support available to extended family caregivers and foster parents. Council member, Jennifer and other participants raise concerns about the lack of support for grandparents and other family members caring for children. explains the options for financial and non-financial support available through voluntary service agreements and other programs. 		
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	<p>Historical Reporting and Service Improvements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provides an overview of the historical reporting structure for Child and Family Services in Fort Resolution. • discusses the transition of oversight to the Port Smith office and the benefits and unintended consequences of this change. • highlights the importance of regular, sustainable services and the need for more frequent on-site coverage. • mentions the establishment of bi-weekly charters to provide additional supports to children, youth, and families. <p>Community Engagement and Prevention Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • emphasizes the importance of community engagement and the need for regular, sustainable services. • discusses the various prevention services available, including voluntary service agreements, brief service agreements, and extended service agreements. • explains the criteria for determining the need for protection services and the importance of family well-being. • highlights the importance of cultural safety and relevance in all services provided to families. <p>Protection Services and Survivor Support</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • explains the process of receiving and investigating reports of suspected maltreatment. • discusses the importance of collecting information from all relevant parties to ensure the safety of children and families. • highlights the support available to survivors, including financial support, counseling, and other services. • emphasizes the need for ongoing support and transition planning to ensure the well-being of children and families. <p>Challenges and Future Plans</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participants raise concerns about the lack of consistent support from mental health workers and physicians. 		
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • acknowledges these challenges and discusses the need for more regular, sustainable services. • mentions the importance of monitoring the effectiveness of bi-weekly charters and making necessary adjustments. • outlines the future plans for improving services and ensuring the well-being of children and families in Fort Resolution. <p>Transition Planning and Housing Waitlists</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • discusses the long waitlists for housing and the challenges faced by young adults in finding homes. • mentions the mandate of Child Family Services to support transition planning for youth, including building skills and supporting young adults into adulthood. • offers to provide data from Director's reports from the Department of Social Services to compare statistics from previous years. • addresses the issue of grandparents being cut off from VSA support without notice and emphasizes the importance of appropriate communication with grandparents. <p>Staffing and Indigenous Representation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • acknowledges the concern about the lack of Indigenous people employed in Child Family Services and the need for Indigenous families to feel comfortable with their support workers. • suggests engaging Indigenous partners to create Indigenous homes and work on placement priorities. • discusses the issue of Child Family Services apprehending one child but not another, leaving one child in the home, and the need for more context to address these concerns. • brings up the issue of travel and Family Services reports and the lack of implementation of recommendations from these reports, particularly regarding foster care and training foster parents. <p>Implementation of Recommendations and Indigenous Homes</p>		
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> explains the process of implementing recommendations from the Auditor General's reports and the increase in Indigenous homes in the Northwest Territories. mentions the initiative to recruit and retain foster families, targeting Indigenous partners, and the need for more support and training for current foster caregivers. offers to provide links to Director's reports and OAG reports from 2014 and 2018 to show progress and implementation of recommendations. shares personal experiences of becoming a foster parent and the challenges faced in finding foster homes for children. <p>Challenges of Foster Care and Staffing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> discusses the different processes for becoming a foster parent and the challenges of providing support to children in foster care. highlights the difficulties of foster caregiving in remote areas and the need for better support and communication. emphasizes the importance of working together to ensure the stability and well-being of children in foster care. discuss the need for better scheduling and communication to support foster parents and children. <p>Community Concerns and Recommendations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> raises concerns about the treatment of elders in the community and the need for medical escorts for appointments. suggests that elders over 60 should not be required to attend same-day appointments and should have the option to stay overnight. discuss the challenges faced by elders during medical travel, including the lack of assistance and the impact of same-day appointments. mentions the ongoing review of the medical travel system and the need for better communication and support for patients. 		
	Snack Break		

	Agenda and Minutes		
5.0	5.1 Review and approval of Previous Meeting Minutes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deferred 		Vice Chair
	5.2 Approval of Agenda Moved by Jennifer DryGeese Seconded by: Brandi Miersch All in favor		
	5.3 Declaration of Conflict of Interest - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No conflict declared 		
7.0	Chairperson Report Report Attached		Chairperson
8.0	Yellowknife Region COO Report Report attached		YK Region COO
9.0	New Business		
10.0	Roundtable Updates - Community activities, questions, and concerns – listed under the presentation and community concerns and recommendations. No further items		Vice Chair
11.0	RWC Report to Public Administrator (PA) - Items to take forward to the PA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Medical Travel – see community concerns Foster Care - A workshop in Fort Resolution is requested. Engagement with YKDFN on foster care is also recommended. 		Chairperson
12.0	Closing Remarks and Next Steps <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thanked everyone for their contributions and concerns and suggested next steps for addressing the issues raised. emphasizes the importance of community feedback and the role of the Regional Wellness Council in advocating for changes. express gratitude for the meeting and the opportunity to discuss important community issues. 		Vice Chair Gilbert Langsi
13.0	Motion to Adjourn Moved by Brandi Miersch Second By Jennifer DryGeese All in favor		Vice Chair

Next Meeting – June 18, 2025

	ACTION ITEMS	OWNER	ASSIGNED	DUE	Completed
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1.	Flag Pictures				
2.					