

**Regional Wellness Council (RWC) – Sahtu Region  
Meeting MINUTES**

June 5, 2021 | 10:00 am – 4:00 pm  
Norman Wells, NT – Via Teleconference

| #   | Item  | Notes         |
|-----|---|---------------|
| 1.0 | Call to Order by Chair.   | 10:10 am      |
| 2.0 | <b>Reflection/Prayer</b>  |               |
|     | Prayer led by Gina Dolphus.<br>The chair requested a moment of silence in remembrance of the recent discovery of the 215 Indigenous children found at the former residential school site in Kamloops, BC.   |               |
| 3.0 | <b>Attendance</b>   |               |
|     | <u>Attendees:</u> Gina Dolphus – RWC Chair<br>Brenda T'Seleie Pierrot<br>Dorathy Alberta – RWC Member<br>Mireille Hamlyn – Chief Operating Officer (COO), NTHSSA – Sahtu Region<br>Bambi Duncan – Executive Assistant to COO (Recorder)<br>VIA Teleconference<br>Andrea Modeste – RWC Member<br>Irene Kodakin - RWC Member<br><br><u>Guests:</u> Nathalie Nadeau – Executive Director, Child, Family and Community Wellness<br>Kristy Jones, Territorial Director, Child, Family and Community Wellness |               |
| 4.0 | <b>Approval of Agenda</b>   |               |
|     | <i>The Council moves to approve the Agenda for June 5, 2021:</i><br><br><b>Motion #03-21</b><br><b>Moved by: Dorathy Alberta</b><br><b>Seconded by: Andrea Modeste</b><br><b>All in Favour. Motion Carried.</b>   |               |
| 5.0 | <b>Presentation(s)</b>  | <b>Action</b> |
|     | <b>Child, Family and Community Wellness Presentation:</b><br><b>Child &amp; Youth Placement Services Portfolio</b><br>At the previous meeting, Nathalie Nadeau, Executive Director, Child, Family and Community Wellness, presented a Child and Family Services update. With recent shifts in how services will   |               |

be provided and a new NTHSSA structure, the ED outlined the New Federal Act (Bill-C92), how we are approaching our shift in practice in the NWT, and next steps in reforming the system.

As requested by the RWC members, Kristy Jones, Territorial Director, Child, Family and Community Wellness and who oversees the Child & Youth Placement Services portfolio; updated the council, speaking specifically around next steps towards reformation of placement services. Key considerations for change reflect:

- Federal Legislation in effect January 2020 is requiring ALL provinces and territories to progress their systems based upon Bill C-92;
- Findings and outcomes of the 60's s Scoop;
- Supports the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) Call to Action #1 that all levels of government commit to reducing the number of Aboriginal children in care;
- Begins to address the legacy of systemic issues and enhance current service delivery practices.

Moving forward, there is a targeted shift to prevention and preservation services, by way of:

- Asserting the foundations of prevention and early intervention.
- Ensuring the capacity for Indigenous children/youth to stay with their families and communities.
- Promotes Indigenous children/youth receiving culturally appropriate services and growing up immersed in their communities and cultures.
- Applying the principle of the best interest of the child in the context of making decisions/providing Child and Family Services to Indigenous children.
- Providing a framework to facilitate the exercise of jurisdiction by Indigenous communities over Child and Family Services.
- Recognizing the importance of connecting with families, extended family members and indigenous governing bodies.

Shifting practice includes:

- Notice must be provided to parent(s), care provider(s), and Indigenous governing bodies before taking a "significant measure".
- Parents, families and communities must be considered as the best and first option for care.
- For any placements outside the family home, Community Social Services Workers must engage in planning and offer resources for promoting:
  - Attachment and emotional ties to the child's Indigenous parents and family members;
  - Respect for and continuity with the child's culture and ongoing reassessment

for family unity.

Structure changes to enhance current service delivery practices

- Dedication focus, accountability and oversight for any children, youth placement;
- Priority goal is reunification (i.e., biological family, extended family, community);
- Reunification plans will be individualized and tailored to each child and/or youth with supports built in;
- At a minimum, all children and youth will have comprehensive cultural plans developed to ensure connections to family, community and culture;
- Dedicated focus to implement services and programs in territory to support children, youth and family treatment.
- The Child, Youth Placement Services portfolio is supported through a Territorial Manager, Crystal Craig. Direct Supervisors will oversee the quality of foster care and adoption work and ensure that workers are provided with training in line with cultural safety and reunification.

Along with some other statistics, it was noted that in the last 6 months, the Sahtu Region has opened 8 extended family foster homes and is in the process of opening 3 more, with a majority of them being provisional or extended family foster homes. Alternative family arrangements have also been supported to prevent children from coming into care with the parent's consent.

**RWC Member T'Seleie-Pierrot** noted there is much frustration with accessing information from social services, particularly when it comes to adults who were taken into care and are now trying to find documentation for various claims. Kristy Jones commented that they are aware of these issues and are working to make these processes less cumbersome. Some Social Workers have been assisting some clients with regards to these claims and/or paperwork to obtain documents through the courts. Kirsty Jones committed to continue to bring these issues forward.

**RWC Chair Dolphus** wanted to know when this work will commence in the communities. Kristy Jones noted that this work has already started. They have had preliminary discussions with the NTHSSA, local governments and staff to insure this a collaborative process.

**RWC Member T'Seleie-Pierrot** asked if any specific supports will be in place for those who have had their children go into care and are working towards getting them back? And, for

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|             | <p>many, the cost of the process to get their children back is very prohibitive. Nathalie Nadeau stated that if clients are challenged with this process and financial aspects of obtaining the needed documents, etc., to please refer them to CFS so they can determine how best to support them.</p> <p><b>RWC Member Alberta</b>, who is currently a Foster Care parent in the Sahtu, noted that for the most part, she has had a very positive experience. However, the biggest challenge has been accessing mental health supports. It is very challenging when there is no consistency in staffing and trust can't be built and healing can begin. Overall, the biggest priority should be prevention but again, it is challenging when services in the communities are also lacking; in particular, after school programs.</p> |                             |
| <b>6.0</b>  | <b>Previous Meeting Minutes: Review, Approval, Business Arising</b>  | <b>Action</b>               |
|             | <p><i>The Council moves to approve meeting minutes from February 27, 2021:</i></p> <p><b>Motion #04-21</b><br/> <b>Moved by: Brenda T'Seleie Pierrot</b><br/> <b>Seconded by: Dorathy Alberta</b><br/> <b>All in Favour. Motion Carried.</b></p>   |                             |
|             | <b>LUNCH BREAK</b>   | <b>BREAK 12:15 – 1:00 p</b> |
| <b>7.0</b>  | <b>Action Items Review</b>   | <b>Action</b>               |
|             | <p>Please refer to the Action List provided with the Agenda.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Item 1</b> – On going. Standing item.</li> <li>• <b>Item 2</b> – On going. Standing item.</li> <li>• <b>Item 3</b> – On going. Standing item.</li> <li>• <b>Item 4</b> – On going. Standing item.</li> <li>• <b>Item 5</b> – On going. Standing Item.</li> <li>• <b>Item 6</b> – In process.</li> <li>• <b>Item 7</b> – Currently on hold. No update.</li> </ul>  |                             |
| <b>8.0</b>  | <b>Projects and Priorities</b>   | <b>Action</b>               |
|             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Combined with COO Report. Please refer to the Priorities List provided with the Agenda.</li> </ul>  |                             |
| <b>9.0</b>  | <b>Chairperson's Report/Updates</b>  | <b>Action</b>               |
|             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chair not present, deferred to next meeting.</li> </ul>   |                             |
| <b>10.0</b> | <b>COO Report</b>  | <b>Action</b>               |

### **Key Initiative Updates**

- Integrated Care Team – Fort Good Hope
- Colville Lake Programs and Services
- Sahtu COVID Vaccination Roll out, including youth 12-17 year old
- Quarter 4 Variance Report
- Hire new Regional Manager, Operations
- Recruitment for Regional Manager, Community Health Centres and Regional Manager, Continuing Care

### **Significant Policy Changes**

- COVID-19 Pandemic Response - ongoing
- Weekly NTHSSA meeting to keep updated on COVID requirements.
- Sahtu Community Flood preparedness meetings
- Deline Wellness Building transferred ownership between the Housing Corporation and the DGG – Service Agreement pending

### **NTHSSA Operational Plan Updates**

- NTHSSA Child and Family Services – Foster Care - Presentation on the agenda.
- Visiting Dentist program resumed in January 2021. Sahtu community members can travel to Norman Wells for care with NIHB approval. NIHB looking at alternate supports for dental services until it can resume community visits.
- Colorectal Cancer Screening initiative has started.
- Reviewing Medivac stats and suicide risk assessment stats.

### **Public Engagement Activities**

- Regional Manager, MHA & CFS visits to Deline to support Mental Health and Addictions programs and services. Ongoing discussion with the DGG and Interagency meetings.
- COO and Regional Manager, Operations community visits:
  - Colville Lake – April 19, 2022
  - Norman Wells – April 22, 2021 (COO Only)
  - Fort Good Hope – April 29, 2021
  - Deline – May 6, 2021
  - Tulita – was put on hold due to flooding situation at the time

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|             | <p><b>Other Noteworthy Information</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Deline:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Family Preservation Worker: Vacant</li> <li>- Client Services Coordinator (Clerk): supports in place</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Tulita</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- MHAC: on a Transfer Assignment to Deline</li> <li>- Supervisor MHAC covering Tulia</li> <li>- Healthy Families Worker: Vacant</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Fort Good Hope</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 2 CSSW: Vacant – casual June 8 – August 8; has been in the community before: ongoing recruitment</li> <li>- CYCC: Vacant - Competition initiated</li> <li>- Activity Aide: In competition process</li> <li>- Family Preservation Worker: Starting July</li> <li>- Health Families Worker: Started April</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Norman Wells</b> <p><b>Health Centre:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- MHAC: Started April 12, 2021</li> <li>- Nurse Practitioner: Started March 15, 2021</li> <li>- Nurse in Charge – Home Care: Recruitment initiated</li> <li>- Healthy Families Worker: Vacant</li> <li>- CSSW: Employee starting June 30, 2021</li> <li>- Supervisor, Prevention Services: Vacant</li> <li>- CHR: Vacant</li> </ul> <p><b>Long Term Care:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Activity Coordinator: In competition process</li> </ul> <p><b>Regional Office:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Administrative Assistant: Recruiting for a 10-month term</li> <li>- Supervisor, CFS: Recruitment started</li> <li>- Regional Manager, CFS: One year term coverage planning</li> <li>- Regional Manager, CHC: Competition ongoing</li> <li>- Regional Manager, CC: Competition started</li> <li>- Quality and Risk Coordinator: Located in Inuvik, started May 2021</li> <li>- Clinical Supervisor, MHA: Competition initiated</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |               |
| <b>11.0</b> | <b>RWC Member Observations and Comments</b>   | <b>Action</b> |

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|             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>RWC Member T'Seleie-Pierrot</b> reviewed recent activities in FGH. She noted that something they are trying is a Housing Society to help address the deplorable state of housing there. If it works well, it could be something the other communities could use. The Men's Transitional Home will be up and running sometime this month and should be full. The Member also noted that she has observed that children and youth need more education on things like drugs, slang terminology or/other terminology, as well as the dangers and how to recognize additions and/or signs of sexual abuse or manipulation. Possibly have the RCMP do school visits again and do presentations.</li> <li>• <b>RWC Member Modeste</b> commented that there still seems to be many barriers to accessing resources and programs. Communication continues to be a frustration.</li> <li>• <b>RWC Alberta</b> noted that she has been endeavouring to work with the recreation department to coordinate activities for children and youth to participate in during the summer months but has been challenged in connecting with the coordinator. As part of her work, she has been working with youth and children by way of mentoring and traditional art and clothing workshops. She is also working with various organizations to plan a youth retreat sometime during the summer and has been consulting with the RM of Mental Health and Addictions.</li> </ul> |               |
| <b>12.0</b> | <b>Other Business</b>  | <b>Action</b> |
|             | <p><b>Member Update</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Council members discussed the need to appoint a Co-Chair. A motion to appoint Brenda T'Seleie-Pierrot as Co-Chair was put forth.</li> </ul> <p><b>Motion #05-21</b><br/> <b>Moved by: Andrea Modeste</b><br/> <b>Seconded by: Irene Kodakin</b><br/> <b>All in Favour. Motion Carried.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Currently there are 3 vacant memberships on the council. Callouts for members went out in the fall, but there were no applicants.</li> </ul>  |               |
| <b>13.0</b> | <b>Closing Reflections / Prayer</b>  | <b>Action</b> |
|             | Closing prayer was led by Gina Dolphus.  |               |
|             | <b>Adjournment</b>   | <b>Action</b> |
|             | Meeting Adjourned at 4:15 p  |               |