

**Dehcho  
Regional Wellness Council Meeting  
January 14-15, 2020  
9:00am  
Fort Simpson, NT**

**Minutes**

Council Members Present:  
Ruby Simba, Chairperson  
Hilda Sabourin  
Muaz Hussien

Call in- Trisha Landry

Regrets:  
Brenda Jumbo  
Janna Deneron  
Raymond Michaud

Staff Participants:  
Wilson Dimsdale  
Fawna Erasmus  
Cecile Richards

Guests:  
Amy Stipdonk, Manager of Continuing Care Services  
Melanie Murphy, Senior Advisor Governance  
Jim Antoine, Chair of the Leadership Council  
Emma Ikert, Cancer Care Navigator  
Raylene Porter, Cancer Care Navigator

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- 1.0 Call to Order - RWC Chairperson**  
Meeting called to order at 9:36AM, January 14, 2020
  - 2.0 Reflection / Prayer**  
Offered by Cecile Richards
  - 3.0 Attendance (see above)**

#### **4.0 Safety Overview**

Safety Overview by Fawna Erasmus

#### **5.0 Approval of the Agenda - RWC Chairperson**

Motion to approve the Agenda  
Motion to approve: Muaz Hussien  
Seconded by: Hilda Sabourin  
All in favor: all  
Motion passed

#### **6.0 Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes**

January 16, 2019  
Motion to approve: Muaz Hussien  
Seconded by: Hilda Sabourin  
All in Favor; all  
Motion: passed  
Remove patient name-replace with community member.

June 11, 2019  
Motion to approve: Muaz Hussien  
Seconded by: Hilda Sabourin  
All in Favor: all  
Motion: passed

#### **7.0 Business Arising from Previous Minutes**

Hilda Sabourin has concerns about Drug and Alcohol abuse in the region. Information on which staffed is hired and what services provided in communities needs to be provided. Wilson stated we have talked about developing a one page handout that will list the services offered and how to contact health care providers.

Hilda brought up the subject of the need for training Social Workers on how to work with parents.

Wilson stated Core Training for Social Workers is ongoing and mandatory and includes training on working with families.

With regards to Mental Health and Addiction services to students, we have child youth care councilors in the schools to support on a daily basis. Wilson and Regional Manager of Mental Health meet with the Dehcho Divisional Education Council Superintendent and his team on a regular basis.

Regional Wellness Council (RWC) Meeting Posters throughout the Community will have contact information of their respected Representative, and will invite the public to voice their concerns. Report from the Chief Operating Officer (COO) will be added to RWC Agenda after the Business Arising on the first day.

Confidentiality breach update has been requested from the RWC, the Northwest Territories Health and Social Services Authority (NTHSSA) is still waiting for the Privacy Commissioner's report to be released. Wilson has stated that we will be training all staff in Privacy Training on both paper and electronic records to help prevent future breaches. Natalie Campbell, Risk Management Specialist will be coordinating the training. Training will be ongoing, updated yearly and specific to job description.

Muaz Hassien questioned the status for the new Long Term Care (LTC) Facility; RWC may want to ask the Leadership Council on what the plans are for more beds at the LTC. Mauz also brought up the topic of Homelessness-what are we doing about sheltering people from the surrounding communities? Currently, there is no women's shelter available in the NWT. Wilson stated that there is a housing shortage is across the north, this is an ongoing issue with the NWT Housing Corporation. NTHSSA is involved by offering supportive services in respect to mental health and addictions. There is an interagency group and our Mental Health Regional Manager attends these meetings with the local governments. Muaz stated he has lost trust in the Government, the Minister of Health has been invited and has not been able to attend to date, Muaz is hoping the new Government will be open to suggestions.

Muaz brought up a fellow member's concerns about the medical travel rate, Wilson has stated Ruby Simba has presented these concerns to the Leadership Council; she will follow up with Melanie Murphy. Muaz asked Ruby about the status of adding a Vice Chair to the Council. The current legislation does not allow the delegation of Chair, they are appointed by the Minister and they cannot delegate the voting power. Muaz has a concern if the RWC Chair is not available, the meeting will not happen.

Wilson has looked into the Dehcho policies to review the role of the Coroner. We do not have a specific NTHSSA Dehcho Policy, but would like to bring forward to the other COO's of the NWT to create a territory wide policy. However, the public can request information from the Coroner's Office. Wilson has provided RWC a Coroner's Office FAQ on the services offered by the Coroner.

Ruby looked at the RWC website; the Dehcho Region does not have many meeting minutes posted online. Fawna will work with Melanie to get minutes uploaded to website.

Ruby brought up the plans for Long Term Care; MLA Shane Thompson had mentioned that there is a plan for a new facility in 2026. There was an issue with lack of space on the island, another issue was, and do we build a new Health Centre attached with Long Term Care? We can't stop operations, so how do we transition? Wilson suggested one plan would be we build new and continue operating in the old building until the new building was ready.

Ruby requested that Diane Thom, the new Minister of Health and Social Services be invited to the next meeting. Ruby stated she was introduced to Diane at the Leadership

Council Meeting.

Call for break for -11:20am

### **8.0 Presentation of Cancer Care Navigators**

Presentation was made by Emma Ikert, Cancer Care Navigator and Raylene Porter, Cancer Care Navigator.

### **9.0 Question and Answer Period**

Q- What does the acronym SMART stand for?

A- Specific, Measureable, Attainable, Realistic/Relevant and Time bound.

Q- What does CCI stand for?

A- Cancer Care Institute.

Q- Do you have statistics on Cancer patients in the NWT?

A- there are 100 new applications and 50 actively being treated at this time.

Q- How is care provided?

A- they provide group information sessions in Alberta and one on one sessions in Yellowknife. Posters have been given out to all Health Centre facilities across the north to be posted in common areas.

Q- Concerns that people can only access the program if they go to Yellowknife.

A- Cancer screening clinics are moving forward in all regions.

Q- How does a community with no Health Centre get an information session?

A- patients can call directly, no referral needed, can also access Cancer Care Navigators at their appointments. CCN are a new resource to help people navigate their cancer care treatment plan, and connect them with additional supports.

Q- Will posters be available for the smaller communities?

A- They were sent out for Cancer Awareness Month, we are ordering more to distribute, you can also contact Melissa Mok, Territorial Specialist Cancer Care at 867-767-9106, extension 40044.

We can provide a distribution list to [cancer\\_navigator@gov.nt.ca](mailto:cancer_navigator@gov.nt.ca)

Q- How do you go in for screening? Does a team ever come to screen communities?

A- there are certain milestone ages where testing begins, unless you have a family history that may mean you start testing earlier than the indicator age. The Cancer Care Navigators are not involved in screening, and focus on supporting patient after diagnosis.

## 10.0 Strategic Planning

Presentation was made by Lisa Cardinal-Director, Corporate Planning, Reporting and Evaluation and Kathy Spooner, Manager, Planning, Reporting, and Evaluation.

## 11.0 Question and Answer Period

Q- Is there a deadline for submitting questions?

A- Hoping to have everyone's input by the end of January, the strategic plan is done March 31, 2020 and the new plan will be distributed April 1, 2020

Additional questions and statements from the RWC:

- Would like to have more information and notice on workers before they work in the community, what is their name, job title and services that they provide.
- What are the options if you are not comfortable with the councilor available?
- Kakisa has lots of diabetic patients, would like more training for community.
- If you require an ambulance in Kakisa from Hay River, who is responsible for paying?
- Have problems getting approved for an escort, approved for medical travel reimbursement, the medical travel rate does not match the Federal rate.
- Kakisa and Fort Providence members have received complaints from community members that work with CFS and RCMP workers that are seen as unprofessional, judgmental and not supportive.
- Feel like the smaller regions are overshadowed from Yellowknife in terms of services offered.
- Is there a plan for a new Long Term Care Facility in the Dehcho so community does not have to go to Yellowknife for palliative care?
- Are there plans for a woman's shelter in the region?
- STI rates in the NWT are 17% over the national rate, what is the plan to educate and prevent this from spreading?
- Can we get Narcan Kits to combat the heavy drug use seen in the smaller communities that don't have ambulances or regular health care services?

Guest Jim Antoine (Chair of Leadership Council) joined the meeting. Jim stated that he has been appointed as the Chair of the Leadership Council for the next 3 years. The role of the Council is to provide recommendations and advice to support the new Minister, Diane Thom. He also stated that it is the first time we have been involved with the Strategic Planning, we deal with a lot of complaints but we also have a lot of good things happening.

Jim continued that the new Stanton Hospital for example is completed but still facing mechanical issues, shortage of staff due to the heavy workload transitioning to the new facility. The RWC has operated with 6 different financial systems in each region, the goal is to amalgamate all Regions under one financial system that is consistent across the territory. Another major goal is to reduce the Budget deficit from 14 million to 11 million by reviewing medical travel, compensation benefits, locums, specialists, escorts and operational costs.

Jim stated we have come a long way since he first started, he would like to thank the RWC for all their hard work and dedication to the Dehcho Region.

## **12.0 Continuing Care Presentation**

Presentation was made by Amy Stipdonk, Manager of Continuing Care Services

## **13.0 Question and Answer**

Q- Is there a wait list for LTC beds and what is the timeline?

A- There is no on the wait list right now, the 17 regular beds are filled, and the 1 respite care bed is always booked. Right now the waitlist is dependent on someone passing or moving to another facility. The wait list in Ontario is 5 years for a Long Term Care Facility. We have access to Fort Simpson, Hay River and Yellowknife long term care facilities and always try to place closest to home. We try to make them as comfortable as possible and make sure they can access a wide arrange of services, residents and local elders that live independently are involved in elders programming at the LTC facility, we have volunteers that come in to provide services and enrichment to the Elder's, such as music demonstrations, free haircuts from the local hairdresser, visits from the local church leaders, and every day visitors.

Q- Can we have the Home Support Worker job description looked at? Sometimes the HSW does not want to do all aspects of the job, like home visits.

A- Worker needs clear direction of duties and over site to ensure it's completed. Amy and Wilson would like to review the Job Offer which is due for renewal March 31, 2020.

Q- Who supervises remote community workers?

A- In the case of Kakisa, it is contracted out to the Band Office and they supervise. NTHSSA Dehcho Region would like to hire a Home Support Worker for Kakisa but office space must first be secured.

Q- We have some clients that could use Home Support, but will have to work with them to be comfortable enough to allow the worker into their home.

A- The information sheets on employees and services provided may help introduce the new service.

Q- Can we get more workshops on stress, diabetes, stomach cancers, and how to combat dementia?

A- We can look at providing more information to Kakisa via the Band Office.

Q- The Senior's Complex in Fort Providence is shut down, are there plans to reopen it?

A- This is a Local Housing Authority Project; NTHSSA is not involved in this project at this time.

#### **14.0 Closing Reflections/Prayer**

Prayer by Hilda Sabourin

#### **15.0 Adjournment**

**Motion** Trisha Landry

**Second** Hilda Sabourin

**In favor** all

**Motion** passed

#### **16.0 Call to Order**

Meeting called to Order at 9:24am, January 15, 2020

#### **17.0 Reflection/Prayer**

Prayer by Fawna Erasmus

#### **18.0 Attendance**

Ruby Simba, Chairperson

Hilda Sabourin

Muaz Hussien

Trisha Landry – called in

Regrets:

Brenda Jumbo

Janna Deneron

Raymond Michaud

Staff Participants:

Wilson Dimsdale

Fawna Erasmus

Cecile Richards

Guests:  
Andrea Donovan, Manager of Primary Care  
Community Member

**19.0 Safety Overview**

Safety Review by Fawna Erasmus

**20.0 Primary Care Reform Demonstration Project**

Presentation was made by Andrea Donovan, Manager of Primary Care

**21.0 Question and Answer**

Questions presented by RWC and answered by Andrea Donovan

**22.0 Chairperson Report**

Ruby Simba presented the Chairperson report with the following dates and meetings:

- June 13 attended the Finance committee in Hay River
- June 27 attended the Leadership Council meeting in Fort Simpson
- Aug 14 attended the Quality Control committee
- Aug 15 OAG-Office of the Auditor General
- Aug 27-29 attended Leadership meeting in Yellowknife
- Aug 28 attended the AGM for the Leadership Council
- Nov 13 Quality Control committee and the finance committee, did not attend meeting on 13 and 14 due to a family emergency
- Nov 28 attended the Leadership Council meeting in Inuvik
- Jan 22 attended Quality Control committee
- Jan 24 attended the Finance committee in Hay River
- Feb 4-5 attended the Leadership Council meeting in Yellowknife

Ruby stated there is a lot of work to transition under one system. Strategic planning, ethics framework, most of the meetings are based out of Yellowknife. Accreditation was a big focus, met with the new Ministers.

Ruby continued with the Leadership Council is learning and developing skills to make decisions based on knowledge. There are a lot of presentations on programs to provide the best care for the whole territory. What are other community's needs; how do we represent them when we don't know their needs.

Ruby would like Wilson to put a presentation together on the Dehcho Region and services provided.



### **23.0 RWC Member Observations and Comments**

Hilda Sabourin reported the Chief of Fort Providence has asked for more on the land workshops and to develop training for traditional care services

The community of Fort Providence has had lots of heavy drug use, especially in the past few months. Hilda requested Narcan kits and training for the community, to be spread out with other resource people like the RCMP. She also stated the need for more workshops with the school on heavy drug use, men, women and youth workshops.

Hilda indicated the need for advertisement of services offered, like the men and women's matrix workshops. There needs to be a continuation of services such as dental, and one on one for counseling and treatment options. Wilson stated we have 2 councilors working in Fort Providence. Hilda responded that the community thinks the councilor should be approaching the public.

Muaz Hussien reported on Fort Simpson; drug overdose problems are ongoing in the Dehcho. The weather conditions in the region have been extremely harsh; in response the Village council has the Bylaw Officer patrolling at night looking for people that may need rides. Muaz provided his feedback on the programs for youth in the community; there is the Board game club supported by Aurora, Liidlii Kue First Nation (LKFN), Education Culture and Employment (ECE), a total of 28 kids attend this program. The Lights on Program, is every Friday and Saturday night at the school supported by LKFN.

Muaz reported that the local Soup kitchen is supported by LKFN and the Friendship Centre. An issue Muaz reported is the alcohol ration system, some people want it lifted and some don't. Muaz said that Chief Jerry Antoine spoke about this, we currently have a lot of good programming for the youth in Fort Simpson.

Ruby Simba provided her report, the community of Kakisa struggles with addictions, stress, grieving, dealing with deaths in the community, but so far no one is requesting a workshop. Ruby would like to see a Workshop for wills and estates for the community to help them understand the process when a loved one passes.

There are housing problems, small community funds hired local people to build ramps for the elders. Kakisa used their summer students to learn about complete this project and learn more about the building process. Gardening and composting is happening in the community as well.

Wilson gave feedback stating he was impressed with the Cultural camp established in Kakisa. Ruby stated a company out of La Crete helped them.

### **24.0 Activities and Priorities**

See item 23.0 RWC Member Observations and Comments

## **25.0 Decision Items and Recommendations to the NTHSSA Leadership Council**

The Regional Wellness Council would like to recommend to the Leadership Council a follow up on the strategic plan.

The RWC would like an update on the Fort Simpson Long Term Care facility plans.

There are issues for housing in Fort Providence, specifically the Seniors Centre. It may have to be addressed at the community level.

The RWC would like to see information on the development of a women's shelter in the NWT and information on any homelessness shelter programs.

An Invitation to Chief Jerry Antoine, Grand Chief Gladys Norwegian, Mayor Sean Whelly, Metis President Danny Peterson, and Superintendent Philippe Brulot, Chair of DEA Bernice Hardisty-Isaiah, RCMP, Interconnected programs, is requested by the RWC. They would like a community report from the RCMP that is provided to the Village Council.

The RWC is requesting a presentation on all services offered by NTHSSA in the Dehcho Region.

The RWC has concerns about the communities that do not have representation on this council; Wrigley, Nahanni Butte, and Jean Marie River. Wilson suggested that RWC Meetings can be scheduled to be held the communities to hear their concerns. Invitations via teleconference may be another option.

## **26.0 Action Items Review**

The RWC has requested the COO provide a report for the next meeting, this is to be added to the Agenda.

The RWC would like to add 1 hour to the Agenda for the public to voice their concerns for their communities.

The RWC would like to extend an invitation to the new Health Minister Diane Thom to attend the next RWC meeting.

Guest Speaker to address the RWC. 2:00PM  
Guest presenter

Ruby introduced the RWC and the NTHSSA Staff to the Guest. Community Member to speak to RWC on 2 major concerns. Guest would also like to address the Leadership Council, Fawna will provide Jim Antoine's contact information with guest.

A community member voiced their concern their late husband received insufficient health care services while in Stanton Territorial Hospital during his chronic disease treatment. They also had concerns about the lack of support received from NWT Housing Corporation to modify home to accommodate husband's medical needs during his care.

Ruby replied to the concern that it is hard to manage chronic diseases in the north, hard when you don't know what is going on or where to get help. We need to hear more of experiences that our people are facing.

**27.0 Closing Reflections/Prayer**  
Prayer by Ruby Simba

**28.0 Adjournment 2:40PM**

**Motion** Muaz Hussien  
**Second** Hilda Sabourin  
**In favor** all  
**Motion** passed