

Yellowknife Regional Wellness Council Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, June 16, 2021

4:30 PM – 7.30PM

Location: Goga Cho, 2nd Floor Boardroom (4916 47 Street)

Teleconference: 1 647 556 5305 | Code: 13371256#

Video: <https://my.telemerge.ca/meet/13371256>

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.

Attendance:

- X **Nancy Trotter**, Chair
- X **Lorie-Anne Danielson**, COO
- X **Helna Poruthur**, EA – Minutes
- X **Elizabeth Liske**
- X **Marie Speakman**
- X **Gilbert Langsi**
- X **Nancy Cymbalisky** (via phone)
- X **Gloria Enzo** (via phone)

Guests:

- X **Dr. Dave Pontin** (via phone) – Area Medical Director
- X **Nathalie Nadeau** – Executive Director, Child and Family, Community Wellness

Regrets:

- X **Allen Stanzell**
- X **Brandie Miersch**
- X **Katey Simmons**

#	Item	Time	Responsibility
1.0	Call to Order Meeting called to order at 4.50pm.	4:50	Nancy Trotter
2.0	Reflection/Prayer Opening prayer led by Marie.	4:51	Marie Speakman

	<p>2.1 Honoring the Children</p> <p>A moment of silence taken to honor the Residential children from Kamloops. Nancy acknowledged the Residential children and events post National News.</p>	4:52	Nancy Trotter
3.0	<p>Welcome & Introductions</p> <p>Nancy welcomed everyone to the meeting, including special guests.</p> <p>Introduction to guest speakers – Nathalie Nadeau and Dr. Dave Pontin. Introduction to Acting COO role – Lori-Anne Danielson</p>	4:53	Nancy Trotter
	<p>3.1 Acknowledgement of traditional territory</p>		Nancy Trotter
	<p>3.2 Safety Overview</p>		Lori-Anne Danielson
4.0	<p>Guest Speaker</p>	4:56	Dave Pontin
	<p>4.1 Dr. Dave Pontin, Area Medical Director (AMD) Yellowknife Region</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brief touch point on Leadership update • Dr. Pontin welcomed our Acting COO (Lorie-Anne) and appreciated the support during the upcoming transitional leadership. • It was mentioned that Dr. Pontin will be stepping down from the role of the AMD – YK and the Authority is actively recruiting for the position. • Dr. Pontin will lead until replacement is found for the new AMD position with special focus on Primary Care Reforms, Same Day access clinic and Integrated Care Team groups. • Dr. Pontin is meeting with specific groups for handoff while day to day operations will be taken over by Dr. Suraiya Naidoo. • Another important project highlighted was the Stanton Legacy building. <p>Nancy thanked Dr. Pontin for his contribution to the Regional Wellness Council as well as appreciated the share of knowledge.</p> <p>Speaker left the session.</p>		

	<p>4.2 Nathalie Nadeau, Executive Director of Child Family and Community Wellness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus of discussion: Engagement with indigenous government and status of the CFS program <p>Question and Answers discussed as below:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Q: Do you explore all necessary avenues before taking children to foster homes? A: Yes, we do. There are certain criteria's that will be looked at, such as Intoxicated individuals at home, security of the child, traumatic experiences, etc. Every case is analyzed on an individual basis and more emphasis placed on the protection of the children. As there are a lot of unknowns with lifestyle and cultural differences, we are excited to have a collaborative partnership with the Indigenous Government as they are more knowledgeable of their own communities and the events involved. 2. Q: After two-three years of foster care, has there been any cases when the parents would want to have their children back? What steps are taken? A: Yes. In Yellowknife we see children who are placed in foster care are naturally navigated into the role of adoption. Realizing that children can have attachment to their foster parents, we try to encourage the involvement of their Biological parents. This is an area we are currently working on, as the lack of it indicates a system fault. Hence a big shift for everyone to adjust with the new system approach while accommodating extended families for foster children. An example of this would be Shared agreements, such as Sleepovers with families. 3. Q: Do you oversee any form of, above stated, Shared agreements materializing? A: Yes, if there is a need on structuring any type of agreements. We will need to look at covering responsibilities among the foster parents and the biological parents for such agreements. This would mean undoing our current system as we do not share the same methods, to meet the best interests of the children. We value the inherent rights of the biological parents to care for their children but our bound by Federal legislations. 	5.05	Nathalie Nadeau
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	<p>A comment was made from a member, pointing out the statistics of under-representation for Indigenous children who suffer trauma in their foster homes without knowing the root cause.</p> <p>4. Two-part Q: Will there be similar Family Preservation positions in Yellowknife? Will there be any discussions on Land Agreements? A: Yes, we are actively recruiting for five candidates, three of whom could be from the Indigenous community. There is a strong motivation to bring a culturally safe program into the system while providing appropriate training, such as Trauma-based education. A: There will be a meeting with the Chief of Yakalaya from the Dene Nation to see if we can collaborate on service delivery versus the legislative policies.</p> <p>5. Q: Are there any affiliations with the Aurora College on their academic curriculum? A: Unfortunately, no. The social worker program was terminated from the College. A Sales pitch was conducted to advocate for the Diploma and Degree programs, as well as bring more regional based learning into the College. An example of such a program was held at Behchekeo with challenges in learning capabilities.</p> <p>6. Q: Are the Elders from the community involved in the children’s decision-making process? Will the Indigenous language be included? A: The new Federal legislation addresses the culture, language and community involvement. There have been on-going collaborations in smaller communities but will take some time to be implemented in the City of Yellowknife. As such, we are always looking out for ways to engage partners and find different ways to recruit Indigenous staff, including contacting staff from other Territories, i.e., Yukon. We realize the importance of bringing in the parents to court cases for advocacy and decision-making process. Hence the key to more culturally safe environment will be seen with the collaboration of the Dene Nation as there are numerous change management to be considered. We would like to see more positive outcomes and are always open</p>		
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	<p>to suggestions/ideas to improve the system and bridge the gap.</p> <p>7. Q: Do you consider the age of the Foster children? i.e., more focus on younger population within the same household. A: We try to have a good mix of age, but the reality is that teenagers are hard to place as they have been in the system longer. This is another area that we would like to improve.</p> <p>8. Q: Any particular reason why services will be transitioned from Ft. Resolution to Ft. Smith instead of Hay River? A: Hay River only provide some services, such as clinical supervision, under the NTHSSA.</p> <p>Speaker left the session.</p>		
5.0	Agenda and Minutes		
	5.1 Previous Meeting Minutes – Review and Approval		
	Motion to approve minutes by Gilbert and second by Liz. All in favor.	6:21	Nancy Trotter
	5.2 Approval of Agenda		
	Motion to approve by Liz and second by Marie. All in favor.		
	5.3 Declaration of Conflict of Interest		
	No conflicts were declared.		
6.0	Business Arising		Nancy Trotter
	6.1 Yellowknives Dene First Nation request for CHR		
	Benefits of having a Community Health Representative (CHR) for NDilo and Dettah were discussed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Everyone supported the CHR role; Nancy T. to take to Leadership council (LC). • Department of Health and Social Services (HSS) will decide on fund allocation, as most CHR's are hired by HSS regions; LC can make recommendations to carry forward. 	6:23	Nancy Trotter

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relevance of CHR’s in the communities was discussed. • A potential meeting, with the CHR (once hired), in the Fall was recommended by members. <p>6.2 Community Engagement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Looking at ways to connect with the communities in the upcoming months (i.e. August and September). • Suggested idea was to have half of the RWC members visit community of Ft. Resolution and the other half to the community of Lutselke. • For preparation and coordination, a RWC member representing the community can be reached out. • Main goal for the visits will be to engage with the community and explain the role of RWC. • The trip will be conducted during the day and will have informational presentations from the RWC members (such as, success stories, purpose of the RWC, etc.) • These visits can be seen as a way to educate the communities on RWC and how we function. • Benefits of such an engagement was discussed briefly (i.e. building a relationship). <p>6.3 Annual Plan Review</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All RWC members are being asked to reflect back on the presentations and meeting structures for the past year and bring forward any suggestions for the upcoming annual plan. • Goal is to look at the different programs and services offered within the NTHSSA and get engagement from the staff. • Suggestions can be emailed to Nancy T. (Chair). 		
7.0	<p>New Business</p> <p>None.</p>		
8.0	<p>Chairperson Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brief overview of the report. 	6:47	Nancy Trotter

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allen will be preparing the summary and information will be communicated in a timely manner. • Nancy T. will be away the week of the LC meeting. • Asking any RWC members who would like to join if possible. <p>Agenda and meeting details can be provided if there is an interest.</p>		
9.0	<p>COO Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brief overview of the report and highlights. • An update on closing the COVID clinic and integration into the Primary Care was discussed. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Waiting rooms have been set up by IPAC team ○ If any signs and symptoms, please go to the Archibald testing site ○ Primary care will be seeing virtual clients ○ Any procedures that can not be changed will be attended at the end of the day and they will be taken straight to the room instead of having them wait ahead 	6:50	Lori-Anne Danielson
10.0	<p>Roundtable Updates- Community activities, questions and concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Process to try and locate similar findings like the BC Residential school, within NWT so the locals are prepared for the news. • Spend more time on discussion topics such as Foster Care Children. • Indigenous patient advocate for increased need for Indigenous support from a Holistic care approach <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Suggested title change: Navigator / Navigation Council • Update on midwifery program and services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Martha Aitkin, as a potential guest speaker on Centering pregnancy • Improve communication process on medical travel and appointments in the South. 	6:59	All

11.0	<p>RWC Report to Leadership Council - Items to take forward to the Leadership Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CHR request to be forwarded to LC. • Mental health support for the Indigenous community with the recent news from BC 	7:18	All
12.0	<p>Closing Reflections / Prayer</p> <p>Closing prayer was led by Gloria.</p>	7:26	Gloria
13.0	<p>Motion to Adjourn</p> <p>Motion to adjourn by Liz and seconded by Gilbert. All in favor.</p>	7:30	Nancy Trotter

Next Meeting – September 15th, 2021