

# Northern First Nations Health Partnership Committee Communique

September 12, 2014

Yawc',\* we hope you are having a wonderful fall. As you will see below, the Northern First Nations Health Partnership Committee had a very full and productive meeting on September 12, 2014.

## Joint Project Board (JPB) Proposal

Earlier this year, the First Nations Health Authority (FNHA) and the Ministry of Health (MoH) established a Joint Project Board (JPB) on First Nations Health comprised of senior decision-makers from both organizations. The JPB is a mechanism to improve First Nations health and well-being through advancing strategic priorities, overcoming policy barriers, improving access to health services, and supporting the integration of MoH and FNHA services and programs. Funding has been made available to initiate primary care projects that will be sustained in future years. The JPB is committed to selecting projects that address regional and/or local needs.

Senior staff from Northern Health (NH) and FNHA have been working together to develop a proposal to access these funds. Four projects were outlined in the proposal: Mental Wellness and Substance Use, Primary Care, Nurse Practitioners and Aboriginal Patient Clinical Support Workers. The proposal identifies a phased-in approach spanning 2014/2015 and 2015/2016 fiscal years for the projects.

## Online Service Inventory

A presentation was made to the Northern First Nations Health Partnership Committee (NFNHPC) on a new online service inventory that was developed by NH staff in partnership with UNBC. This service inventory is a database containing community profiles and a variety of information that allows the user to see the NH services located in a community or Health Service Delivery Area (HSDA). It also allows the user to compare up to three communities.

## Privacy Issue: Sharing of Information

Patient information sharing between NH and Carrier Sekani Family Services (CSFS) is being investigated in an effort to improve communication and health access. Both federal and provincial legislation regarding the sharing of information about direct patient care is being reviewed. Defining an audit process and a clear description of what will be done should a breach be detected are two key aspects to be addressed.

### Physician Compensation

Carrier Sekani Family Services has identified concerns and issues associated with physician compensation that affect access to primary care and specialist physician services in northern communities. These concerns are being discussed with the Ministry of Health. This includes programs such as: Rural Locums, Northern and Isolation Travel Assistance Outreach Program (NITAOP), and Alternative Payment Plan (APP).

### Community Engagement Coordinators

Nine Community Engagement Coordinators (CECs) have been hired across the north to replace the previous positions of HUB Coordinators. Working with communities to engage on their health priorities and concerns, CECs will strive to enhance community health and communication between FNHA and communities.

### Aboriginal Health Improvement Committee Work

Members of the Aboriginal Health Improvement Committees (AHICs) gathered in Prince George in June 2014. A portion of that gathering was devoted to learning about mapping processes and selecting a patient journey or process that each AHIC would like to map in their local area (e.g. discharge planning). This kind of mapping supports identification of issues or concerns and development of recommendations. Mapping efforts are successfully underway and gathering momentum.

### Working Groups' Update

The Population and Public Health Working Group and the Cultural Competency Working Group both met in September. Committee co-chairs commented that the groups were provided an opportunity to meet, focus on the work plan and discuss how to move forward.

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*\*As part of our Communique, we are trying to include northern First Nations languages. "Yawc" means "Hello" in Haisla.*