



Metro Vancouver Aboriginal Executive Council

Suite 004 - 1607 East Hastings Street
Vancouver, BC, V5L 1S7
phone: (604) 255-2394 website: www.mvaec.ca

Aboriginal Community
Career Employment
Service Society

Aboriginal Front Door
Society

Aboriginal Mothers Centre
Society

Canadian Aboriginal AIDS
Network

Circle of Eagles Lodge
Society

Federation of Aboriginal
Foster Parents

Fraser Region Aboriginal
Friendship Centre
Association

Healing Our Spirit Society

Helping Spirit Lodge
Society

Kekinow Native Housing

Knowledgeable Aboriginal
Youth Association

Lu'ma Native Housing
Society

Native Education College

Nisga'a Ts'amiks
Vancouver Society

Pacific Association of First
Nation Women

Spirit of the Children
Society

Urban Native Youth
Association

Vancouver Aboriginal
Community Policing
Centre

Vancouver Aboriginal
Friendship Centre Society

Vancouver Aboriginal
Transformative Justice
Services Society

Vancouver Aboriginal
Child & Family Services
Society

Vancouver Native Health
Society (VNHS)

Vancouver Native Housing
Society

Warriors Against Violence
Society

Urban Indigenous Opioid Task Force Meeting

Thursday, May 17th, 2018

9:10 am to 11:25 am

VAFCS Theatre Room

Minutes: **DRAFT**

Present:

- Kevin Barlow- Chaired (MVAEC)
- Colter Long (MVAEC)
- Rocky James (MVAEC)
- Patrick Smith (CSL)
- Lyle Dixon (NEC)
- Fleurie Hunter (UNYA)
- Monica Howard (VNHS)
- Kayla Heald (VNHS)
- Susan Tatoosh (VAFCS)
- Denise Forsythe (VAFCS)
- James Hunter (VAFCS)
- Norm Leech (VACPC)
- Gabriella Emery (PHSA)
- Brittany Martell (PHSA)
- Lana Fox (MRT)
- Nora Hanuse (AFDS)
- Roshni Desai (FNHA)
- Shawna Morrison (FNHA)
- Riley David (FNHA)
- Perry Omeasoo (VCH)
- Laurel Jebamani (VCH)
- Sarah Levine (VCH)
- Teila Gabriel (UBC)
- Russell Maynard (PHS)
- Frank Cohn (DUDES)
- Daniel Finney (DUDES)
- Eden Green (RainCity)
- Christopher Sands (RainCity)
- Emily Sollows (BCCDC)
- Tracey Strain (MCFD)
- Thomas Venables (BCEHS)
- Deanna Wing (CCF)
- Zakary Zawaduk (COV)

Meeting opened at 9:10 am

I. Opening prayer: Lyle Dixon

II. Old business

- Review of *UIOTF Recommendation with Overdose Emergency Response Centre (OERC)*: Colter Long
UIOTF has been successful in establishing a relationship with the new *Ministry of Mental Health & Addictions*.¹ Our advocacy has gained us a seat as a member of the *Vancouver Community Action Team (CAT)* where we will be able to present issues facing the urban Indigenous community directly to the OERC to have them addressed immediately at both the community and provincial levels.²

¹ <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/governments/organizational-structure/ministries-organizations/ministries/mental-health-addictions>

² https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/overdose-awareness/terms_of_reference_nov_30_final.pdf



Metro Vancouver Aboriginal Executive Council

Suite 004 - 1607 East Hastings Street
Vancouver, BC, V5L 1S7
Phone: (604) 255-2394 Website: www.mvaec.ca

Issues that UIOTF members would like to be addressed can be brought up at UIOTF meetings or emailed directly to Colter Long at projects@mvaec.ca. A formal process of communication with the CAT will be developed. For example, UIOTF can present Indigenous issues at CAT meetings on a quarterly basis.

MVAEC facilitates knowledge-exchange among ground-level community responses so that successes can be shared and implemented quickly, without waiting for government.

There is a CAT grant from the Community Action (CAI)³ Initiative that are circulating, however, this is intended for the CAT team to make a joint submission and individual organizations are not eligible. *Community Crisis Innovation Funding* will be released by the OERC soon to fund one-time only interventions.

III. New business

- i. Announcement of Metro Vancouver Indigenous Service Society's (MVISS) new Indigenous Mental Wellness & Substance Use Counselling Agency: Kevin Barlow
 - The new agency is currently interviewing candidates to fill 9 positions including programs manager, 4 counsellors/facilitators, cultural workers, youth worker, and intake worker. Training will begin in June so the centre can open in the fall of 2018.
 - The agency will partner with organizations within and outside of MVAEC's coalition to provide integrated, wrap-around service to Indigenous clients and will help prevent people from falling through the cracks of the current system.
 - MVISS has already established a relationship with UNYA to share resources to support youth and the Culture Saves Lives program to offer on-site cultural programming.
 - UIOTF will help inform the design of MVISS programming to ensure it addresses current community needs effectively with agility.
1. Patrick Smith (CSL) recommends that various healing services partner with prevention sites to build relationships with clients seeking support.
2. Russ Maynard (PHS) identified the gap that exists when clients discharge themselves at any time of day or night when services are unavailable.
3. Tracey Strain (MCFD) recommends childminding be available for clients.
 - Various healing centres are being established such as, 312 Main⁴, Saa-ust Centre⁵, and the Clark & East 1st project⁶. MVISS is a centralized healing agency and will require communication with these other services to provide integrated, wrap-around care for the community.
- ii. UIOTF's 2018-2019 Knowledge Translation Work Plan: Colter Long
 - MVAEC will be conducting 6 focus groups to gather knowledge through a 3-phase process (1. Knowledge Inquiry, 2. Knowledge Synthesis, & 3. Knowledge Translation)

³ <http://www.communityactioninitiative.ca/>

⁴ <http://312main.ca/>

⁵ <http://vancouver.ca/news-calendar/city-opens-saa-ust-centre-at-44-east-cordova-street.aspx>

⁶ <https://www.bchousing.org/partner-services/public-engagement/projects/vancouver-1st-clark>



Metro Vancouver Aboriginal Executive Council

Suite 004 - 1607 East Hastings Street
Vancouver, BC, V5L 1S7
Phone: (604) 255-2394 Website: www.mvaec.ca

from urban Indigenous people with lived experience related to the opioid crisis. This knowledge will help inform service providers so they can tailor their programming to address the issues that are impacting the community most.

1. Zakary Zawaduk (COV) recommends that MVAEC create a fourth phase to the work plan to share the best practices of the knowledge translation process with other Canadian cities so this work can be replicated.
 2. UIOTF members agreed that they are interested in knowing what is working well and what isn't. Focus groups should include people with lived experience along with the service providers that serve them.
 3. There was unanimous agreement that focus groups be based on demographics and separate sessions be offered for a) men, b) women, c) youth, d) LGBTQ2, e) Elders, and f) mothers with small children.
 4. Sarah Levine (VCH) recommends hosting an Indigenous services fair where everyone can promote their agencies, present on what is working well, network, and collaborate.
- iii. Other announcements and updates
- Services provided by the Mobile Response Unit (MRT): Lana Fox
The MRT offers psychosocial support to community-based organizations including front-line staff, first responders, peers/people with lived experience, volunteers and management who have been impacted by the effects of critical incidents such as multiple overdoses and/or deaths. The MRT is in the process of hiring more staff and is need of more Indigenous workers. To apply, please visit:
<https://jobs.phsa.ca/job/-/-/909/8189219>
This is a free and confidential service. To access, please email MRT@phsa.ca.⁷
 - The *VCH Overdose Outreach Team* is also available to connect with clients after an overdose.⁸ Please contact misty.bath@vch.ca for these services.
 - Harm Reduction grants are available from the federal government under the *Substance Use and Addictions Program (SUAP)*. The Letter of Intent (LOI) process has now been removed and organizations can now make proposal submissions for funding. Please email SAUP-PUDS@hc-sc.gc.ca for the application form.⁹
 - MVAEC will be launching a new website, Indigenous services phone app, and webpage for UIOTF. If you have any comments or recommendations for what information should be displayed on the UIOTF site, please email projects@mvaec.ca.

⁷ <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/overdose/mobile-response-team>

⁸ http://redbookonline.bc211.ca/service/54679286_54679286/overdose_outreach_team

⁹ <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/substance-abuse/canadian-drugs-substances-strategy/funding/substance-use-addictions-program.html>



Metro Vancouver Aboriginal Executive Council

Suite 004 - 1607 East Hastings Street
Vancouver, BC, V5L 1S7
Phone: (604) 255-2394 Website: www.mvaec.ca

- *International Overdose Awareness Day* is on August 31st.¹⁰ UIOTF could potentially organize an advocacy event. For example, combine efforts to advocate for decriminalization. If you are interested in participating, please contact Patrick Smith at culture@mvaec.ca.
- Eden Green (RainCity) raised concerns that UIOTF appeared to be doing general work regarding the opioid crisis and recommended the group centre around Indigenous culture. Tracey Strain (MCFD) agreed that the language used within the meeting should reflect an Indigenous worldview. Pre-existing UIOTF members welcomed the feedback and clarified that all of the group's advocacy has been in support of Indigenous Cultures as Treatment. MVAEC has made considerations for our next UIOTF meeting to be delivered through an Indigenous-centred, decolonized lens.
- Christopher Sands (RainCity) will be sharing RainCity Housing's strategy for decolonizing. Emily Sollows (BCCDC) mentions that many organizations say that Culture as the Intervention is a priority, yet it always takes a backseat of higher priorities. MVAEC will share information on best practices for decolonization.

IV. Closing prayer: Lyle Dixon

V. Adjournment 11:25 am

Action Items:

- Christopher Sands (RainCity) to share RainCity Housing's strategy for decolonization.
- Riley David (FNHA), Laurel Jebamani (VCH), & Sarah Levine (VCH) are to review the first draft of the MVAEC Opioid 101 information binder.
- Samantha Pranteau (WAHRS) is to meet with MVAEC to establish an ongoing relationship with Indigenous peers with lived experience.
- Lana Fox (MRT) to share MRT job postings when they are released.
- MVAEC is to share federal SUAP grant with UIOTF network.
- MVAEC will begin Phase I of UIOTF Work Plan.
- MVAEC will launch UIOTF web page.
- MVAEC to establish a formal communication process for reporting issues to the Vancouver CAT.

¹⁰ <https://www.overdoseday.com/>



Metro Vancouver Aboriginal Executive Council

Suite 004 - 1607 East Hastings Street
 Vancouver, BC, V5L 1S7
 Phone: (604) 255-2394 Website: www.mvaec.ca

Attendee Contact List

Name	Email	Position	Organization
Barlow, Kevin	ceo@mvaec.ca	Chief Executive Officer	Metro Vancouver Aboriginal Executive Council
Cohn, Frank	frankcohn@gmail.com	Program Director	DUDES Club
David, Riley	riley.david@fnha.ca	Regional Addictions Specialist	First Nations Health Authority
Desai, Roshni	roshni.desai@fnha.ca	Data Analyst	First Nations Health Authority
Dixon, Lyle	lyledixon2000@yahoo.ca	Elder/ Educator/ Counsellor	Native Education College
Emery, Gabriella	gabriella.emery@phsa.ca	Aboriginal Health	Provincial Health Services Authority
Finney, Daniel		Practicum Student	DUDES Club
Forsythe, Denise	outreach@vafcs.org	Outreach Worker	Vancouver Aboriginal Friendship Centre Society
Fox, Lana	lana.fox.phsa.ca	Mobile Response Team	Provincial Health Services Authority
Gabriel, Teila	teilagabriel@gmail.com	Medical Student	University of British Columbia
Green, Eden	egreen@raincityhousing.org	Cultural Worker	RainCity Housing
Hanuse, Nora	nora@abfrontdoor.com	Housing Navigator	Aboriginal Front Door Society
Heald, Kayla	kheald@vnhs.ca	Housing Navigator	Vancouver Native Housing Society
Howard, Monica	monica.acfss@vnhs.net	Family Support Worker – Team Leader	Vancouver Native Health Society
Hunter, Fleurie	fleurie.hunter@unya.bc.ca	Director of Clinical Programs	Urban Native Youth Association
Hunter, James	communitynavigator@vafcs.org	Community Navigator	Vancouver Aboriginal Friendship Centre
James, Rocky	policy@mvaec.ca	Community Engagement & Policy Analyst	Metro Vancouver Aboriginal Executive Council
Jebamani, Laurel	laurel.jebamani@vch.ca	Aboriginal Health Lead	Vancouver Coastal Health
Leech, Norm	coordinator@vacpc.org	Executive Director	Vancouver Aboriginal Community Policing Centre
Levine, Sarah	sarah.levine@vch.ca	Nurse Educator	Vancouver Coastal Health
Long, Colter	projects@mvaec.ca	Projects Officer	Metro Vancouver Aboriginal Executive Council
Martell, Brittany	brittany.martell@phsa.ca	Provincial Overdose Mobile Response Team	Provincial Health Services Authority
Maynard, Russ	russellm@phs.ca	Policy and Research	PHS Community Services Society
Morrison, Shawna	shawna.morrison@fnha.ca	Care Coordination Lead	First Nations Health Authority



Metro Vancouver Aboriginal Executive Council

Suite 004 - 1607 East Hastings Street
Vancouver, BC, V5L 1S7
Phone: (604) 255-2394 Website: www.mvaec.ca

Omeasoo, Perry	perry.omeasoo@vch.ca	Aboriginal Mental Health Liaison	Vancouver Coastal Health
Sands, Christopher	csands@raincityhousing.org	Outreach/Cultural Support Worker	RainCity Housing
Smith, Patrick	culture@mvaec.ca	Culture Saves Lives	Metro Vancouver Aboriginal Executive Council
Sollows, Emily	emily.sollows@bccdc.ca	BC Centre for Disease Control	Nurse Educator
Strain, Tracey	tracey.strain@gov.bc.ca	Indigenous Policy Analyst	BC Ministry of Child & Family Development
Tatoosh, Susan	executivedirector@vafcs.org	Executive Director	Vancouver Aboriginal Friendship Centre Society
Venables, Thomas	Thomas.venables@bcehs.ca	Paramedic Bike Squad Liaison	BC Emergency Health Services
Wing, Deanna	deanna.wing@centralcityfoundation.ca	Program Coordinator	Central City Foundation
Zawaduk, Zakary	zakary.zawaduk@vancouver.ca	Planning Assistant	City of Vancouver