

Shkagamik-Kwe Mental Health and Addictions Support

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Report Summary

This report and presentation provides an overview of Indigenous Mental Health and Addictions supports provided by the Shkagamik-Kwe Health Centre funded through the City of Greater Sudbury.

Relationship to the Strategic Plan, Health Impact Assessment and Climate Action Plans

The report supports the City of Greater Sudbury Strategic Plan around Quality of Life and Place as it aligns with the Population Health Priorities of Indigenous Youth, Mental Health, Housing and Healthy Streets by providing mental health and addictions services for individuals who are experiencing homelessness in the community. This report has no relationship to the Community Energy and Emissions Plan.

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications associated with this report.

Background

In April 2021, the City of Greater Sudbury partnered with the Shkagamik-Kwe Health Centre to deliver mental health and addictions programming for the Indigenous homeless population through the B.E.A.R. (Belonging, Equity, Access, Respect) Team.

The City of Greater Sudbury funded the program through one-time Mental Health and Addictions funding received through the province in response to the arising mental health and addictions needs of the community. The program has continued to be funded through the provincial Homelessness Prevention Program (HPP). The City of Greater Sudbury provides \$207,065 annually to Shkagamik-Kwe Health Centre to operate the program.

The BEAR Team is an outreach team that support the vulnerable population of the Indigenous peoples residing in the urban setting of the City of Greater Sudbury. Specifically, the program responds to the

homelessness population, vulnerable youth, sex workers, and provides for support for the prevention of human trafficking. In addition, through the multiple services that Shkagamik-Kwe Health Centre provides, the program ensures access to primary care, counselling, and navigation to other partner services (e.g., detox and rehabilitation centres) for individuals living with mental health and addictions issues.

Funding provided to the program is used for staffing requirements of two outreach workers and a program assistant. The program also receives support from existing Mental Wellness, Primary Care, and Traditional teams, within the Health Centre to meet the needs of the population.

The program also provides food security, clothing, emergency accommodations, relocation supports/transportation back to home communities. The BEAR Team provides transportation for appointments and navigation support to many partners in the Sudbury District. The program also supports eviction prevention through rent supplements or housing allowances. Education is provided on inequity, discrimination and racism faced by this population.

Outcomes:

- Mental health/illness and substance use supports and services and supports related to recovery;
- Harm reduction and substance use assessment, support, treatment and withdrawal services;
- Crisis intervention and prevention services;
- Dual diagnosis and fetal alcohol supports;
- Medication assistance and medical care;
- Provide people with short-term mental health and addictions, along with housing assistance.

The Shkagamik-Kwe Health Centre is present at all municipal tables addressing Mental Health and Addictions to support systems planning related to the issue.

This initiative supports the Roadmap to End Homelessness recommendation to support Indigenous Healing and Well-being through embedding culturally appropriate services throughout the homelessness-serving sector.

Successes

Since this partnership began in April 2021, the number of individuals served has steadily increased. The team interacts with 60 clients per service day on average and has successfully transitioned eight individuals into treatment centers. Further, the team was successful in identifying youth that were missing and insecure. The number of volunteers that work with the B.E.A.R. Team continues to increase overall support for the program.

In addition, the individuals served have access to the full complement of services that the Shkagamik-Kwe Health Centre offers; including primary care, traditional supports, mental wellness, education, food supports, clothing, and essential needs, of which most do not have access to.

The B.E.A.R. Team built, and is sustaining, a foundation of respect, trust, and support.

Next Steps

The City of Greater Sudbury will continue to work collaboratively with Shkagamik-Kwe Health Centre to deliver the B.E.A.R. program through coordination between the program and City Staff, including Client Navigators, to achieve housing outcomes for individuals experiencing homelessness and at-risk populations.

Resources Cited

[Homelessness Consultation Update](#)

[Roadmap to End Homelessness by 2030](#)

[City of Greater Sudbury Housing and Homelessness Plan – Annual Update 2023](#)