



MINUTES

Community Drug Strategy for the City of Greater Sudbury

Steering Committee Meeting

Tuesday, April 21, 2020

10:30 A.M.—12 P.M.

Teleconference: 1-866-219-7782 Participant access code: 669812

Co-chairs: Shana Calixte, Public Health Sudbury & Districts
Daniel Despatie, Greater Sudbury Police Service

Recorder: Josée Joliat, Public Health Sudbury & Districts

Present: Roxane Zuck, Monarch Recovery Services
Sandra Laclé, Public Health Sudbury & Districts
Nicole MacMillan, City of Greater Sudbury
Michelle Cotnoir, Conseil scolaire catholique du Nouvel-Ontario
Rebecca Poulin, Greater Sudbury Emergency Medical Services
Cindy Rose, Canadian Mental Health Association – Sudbury/Manitoulin
Roxane Zuck, Monarch Recovery Services
Natalie Aubin, Health Sciences North
Daniel Molke, HSN Addictions Services
Amber Fritz, Réseau ACCESS Network

Regrets: Denys Bradley, Federal Crown Attorney’s Office
Adam Day, North East Local Health Integration Network
Renée Lefebvre, Karrie-Ann Jones, Public Health Sudbury & Districts
Todd Marassato, Robert Norman, Greater Sudbury Police Service
Melissa Rooney, Greater Sudbury Emergency Medical Services
Catherine Watson, Health Sciences North
Robert Parsons, Crown Attorney’s Office
Michelle Warth, Ontario Provincial Police
Dianne Zannier, Conseil scolaire public du Grand Nord de l’Ontario
Stephanie Kehoe, Métis Nation of Ontario
Mary Jago, Rainbow District School Board
Kathy Belanger, Sudbury Catholic School Board

	Item	Description of Outcome	Individual responsible for further action and deadline
1.0	ROLL CALL	The meeting was called to order at 10:35 a.m.	
2.0	WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS	Introductions were made.	

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3.0	REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA	The agenda was approved.	
4.0	UPDATES: HOW ARE PARTNERS OFFERING SERVICES?	<p>PHSD: There are 44 cases of COVID-19 within the Sudbury & Districts area, one of them being a resident of a LTC facility. There are 4 testing centres available in Sudbury, and paramedicine offers off-site testing. Espanola, Manitoulin and Chapleau have their own testing sites. Espanola and Manitoulin have mobile testing available.</p> <p>Although the opioid dashboard hasn't been updated since 2019, we continue to monitor the data daily. Anticipating updating the dashboard by next week.</p> <p>We know that in the southern Ontario, things escalated faster than in northern Ontario, and we benefited by implementing physical distancing in the north, but we aren't sure that our COVID-19 cases are leveling out as much as southern Ontario since they were affected sooner.</p> <p>ACTION: J.Joliat to send links to HSN & PHSD COVID-19 case tracking to members.</p> <p>CMHA: The Off the Street shelter is at 1500 Regent, in the old Best Value Inn. The testing centre is denying symptomatic clients to be tested since those clients can't isolate. They are working on having an isolation shelter, but there are challenges. They are working on developing pathways on how to get this done. There will be a meeting this afternoon with Nicole and Dana, to create pathways for this work.</p> <p>ACTION: C. Rose to share outcome of the meeting.</p> <p>They've noticed discarded syringes around the area and in the rooms in the past few days. They are doing checks in the rooms and have bins outside to minimize risks.</p>	<p>J.Joliat</p> <p>C. Rose</p>

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		<p>What kind of overdose prevention is in place? The usual checks are heightened. Doors are kept open. Policies and procedures are the same. Some clients have extra accommodations (more frequent checks and they are put in rooms near staff) because they are aware of their needs.</p> <p>People who are intoxicated are still permitted in the shelter, contrary to some information shared in the community.</p> <p>They've noticed that many people being discharged from jail don't have a residence to return to. In some cases, because some First Nations communities are closed, some people can't go back to their communities once discharged from jail.</p> <p>People are being discharged from jail sooner than they have time to do discharged planning.</p> <p>Monarch:</p> <p>Outreach services are still being offered, but staff are working from home. They are connecting with clients online or by phone. They are having a hard time finding housing for their clients. 3 people in the Ash program need housing. There's a delay since landlords don't want to do tours. They are trying to get video conference up.</p> <p>The Men's treatment program has 14 men on the waitlist. Tomorrow they are starting virtual groups and 1-1 counselling.</p> <p>They don't have a full house in the Men's recovery home, but they are not taking new residents. There's a concern about bringing potential asymptomatic people in the house.</p> <p>They are currently housing patients from acute psychiatry at HSN and Kirkwood. This partnership has been working very well.</p> <p>Beyond the Rock has 3 people in house instead of the usual 5.</p> <p>Women's After-Care has 4 people in house, 2 in each apartment to follow physical distancing guidelines. Assessments for intake and admission are taking place and they are looking to re-open as soon as they can.</p>	

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		<p>They have been receiving AMHO and local support. Most residential treatment facilities are doing virtual treatment and supporting at home.</p> <p>Anticipating to open Larch St at the end of May. They are currently taking referrals. They're struggling to get referrals at this point. Open to doing intake from community partners and hospital.</p> <p>ACTION: C.Rose to send referral information to partners.</p> <p>Reseau: They are still doing outreach 7 days a week. The demand has increased enormously. Is this a coincidence or are people using more? People are worried (safety, food). Overdoses are increasing due to increased toxic supply. Staff are working from home if they're not working outreach. It's difficult to follow physical distancing guidelines with clients. BVK wipes have been extremely useful since not everyone has access to running water, especially with stores and restaurants being closed to customers. Trying to support as best as we can with what we can.</p> <p>They are now located on the ground floor of St-Andrew's Place which has its own doors. They are still providing minimal on-site services in Medina Lane. People are still coming in to get tested, can pick-up groceries for Hep C and HIV patients, and naloxone. They have a food bank for HIV and Hep C case loads.</p> <p>Needle exchange program: Needle exchange is continuing its usual service, but it is now located across the hall.</p> <p>Who is overseeing YMCA program which offers washrooms, computers, etc. for certain hours a day? There have been reports from the community that they don't have naloxone and security guards have a 'hands-off' approach. Does Marlene Gorman or Gayle Spencer (CGS) facilitate this?</p>	<p>C.Rose</p>

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		<p>ACTION: A.Fritz will follow-up to see if YMCA has naloxone on hand and will advise the group.</p> <p>SACY: We know they're still doing peer outreach, but unsure what other services are taking place.</p> <p>ACTION: J.Joliat to get an update on SACY's services.</p> <p>HSN: WMS and safe beds are still operating. They were seeing low volumes in their programs. However, the numbers increased this past week. They are in the process of determining how to work with individuals who are tested positive for COVID-19. There are some challenges and concerns such as transportation when they manage an intoxicated client, then send them to the hotel or back home. Discussions will follow to clarify. Outpatient gambling is not doing group sessions, but doing they are taking referrals and supporting those who need it virtually. The RAAM clinic and the addictions medicine consult team (AMCT) are still accepting referrals. The AMCT is for inpatients coming into hospital that have an addiction.</p> <p>City: They've installed a needle disposal bin temporarily at 1500 Regent St. This bin will be moved closer to the new shelter location at 1200 Larch Street when it opens. They need to wait for the ground to thaw to pour a cement pad, then 2 new kiosks will be installed in the community. Social services are fully operational via email or phone. Half of the staff are working from home, while the other half are in the office. If a client doesn't have phone or email, they can come to their office and receive services in person.</p>	<p>A.Fritz</p> <p>J.Joliat</p>

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		All Ontario Works cheques will be released for May without providing an income statement. Cheques will just go out as scheduled.	
5.0	COVID SUPPORT: NEEDS/QUESTIONS	<p>We need to ensure that the opioid crisis is not overshadowed by COVID-19. How can we enhance supports at this time?</p> <p>There are concerns throughout the province about increases in overdoses. Although our data demonstrate that there has not been an increase in our area.</p> <p>From our PHSD monitoring, we haven't seen the numbers go up. Those are the data channels that we're used to. On the ground knowledge contradicts and says it's worse. Toronto saw a spike in February, we usually see Toronto trends a bit later. Issue is with benzos being in the</p> <p>EMS: In April, there were 13 suspected opioid overdose calls, which is significantly lower than April 2019. There's a concern that we aren't seeing the numbers increase because people aren't calling. March data were similar to 2019. February had seen that same spike. Naloxone numbers are decreasing. Numbers have dropped from March to April of non-paramedic admin.</p> <p>GSPS hasn't seen an increase in suspected opioid-related deaths in the past month.</p> <p>Discussions regarding instituting a safe supply program in Sudbury as seen in Vancouver. This is also being done by one doctor in London.</p> <p>There are reports in southern Ontario that the prices for illicit substances has increased. This poses problems for people who can't afford these higher prices and puts them at risk for involuntary withdrawal.</p> <p>ACTION: J.Joliat to share PHSD resource document.</p>	J.Joliat

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		<p>PHSD has created a button that can be added on any website that links directly to the PHSD website. Agencies can let us know if they want this.</p> <p>What can we do for prevention messaging? Push messaging that naloxone is still available and how to access. These posts can tag community partners. We can target something for right before April 30th, when the Ontario Works cheques come out.</p> <p>However, social media should only be one of many platforms as people don't have easy access to the internet. Ideas are brought forward to put naloxone information on needle bins and on the back of buses.</p> <p>Ministry sent a supply of extra naloxone, so we are stocked for the next few months.</p> <p>Community intel says that prescribed methadone in Sudbury is still being given in daily doses. If you have any substances in your urine, you can't get multiple daily doses which poses a problem as people are waiting in line daily with no physical distancing measures in place. The Ministry released information allowing more leniency in prescriptions of multiple doses, but this is not being done locally. There are a few doctors that provide multiple methadone prescriptions, can we get in touch with them to explain risks this may pose?</p> <p>ACTION: A.Fritz to send info from Ministry allowing multiple doses of Methadone to be prescribed.</p>	A.Fritz
6.0	NEXT STEPS: SUPPORT FOR OUR WORK	As soon as we can get our CDS meetings back on track, we will be able to present the NAFS results.	
11.0	Next meeting	<p>Date: June 23, 2020 Time: 10:30 a.m. -- 12:00 p.m. Meeting will be held either by teleconference or at Withdrawal Management Services, pending COVID-19 updates.</p>	

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12.0	Adjournment	The meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.	