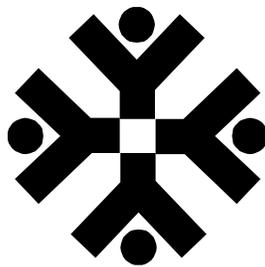


YUKON
HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES
COUNCIL



2015 - 2016
ANNUAL REPORT

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

"The Health and Social Services Council shall, no later than June 30 of each year, provide the Minister with an annual report containing a summary of its activities, deliberations, and recommendations during the preceding year. On receiving the report, the Minister shall lay a copy of it before the Legislative Assembly during the session then in progress or the next session". S.41, Health Act, (Yukon)

This annual report outlines activities undertaken by the Health and Social Services Council (the Council) in 2015-2016 in its efforts to meet its legislated mandate in working collaboratively with interest groups, agencies, government and the public at large to improve the health and well-being of Yukoners.

The assistance and dedication of all the members of this Council and of those who supported the Council in its work is appreciated. Thank you to all of you.

Sincerely,



Ted Staffen
Chair



Maxwell Rispin
Co-chair

COUNCIL MANDATE

Council is established under section 35 of the *Health Act* (Yukon).

The Health and Social Services Council is an advisory body that makes recommendations to the government relating to issues of:

- Health
- Social Services
- Education, and
- Justice

It also advises government on policy issues that will improve the health and well-being of all Yukon residents.

Members do not represent any specific group or agenda but are selected from throughout the Yukon to represent the voice of all Yukon residents.

Council holds a minimum of four meetings a year.

COUNCIL MISSION STATEMENT

Council will take an active role in assisting all people of Yukon in their efforts to achieve individual and community well-being:

- by providing an open process for review of social policy and concerns in the areas of health, justice and social services, and
- By promoting cooperation and coordination between and among community groups and all levels of government.

Council will function as an independent advisory group, making recommendations to the Minister.

COUNCIL TERMS OF REFERENCE

The functions of Council as identified under the Terms of Reference include:

- to consult individuals, groups, and the public about health, social, education and justice issues and report to the Minister on what they believe the issues are and how they believe the issues should be dealt with
- to recommend to the Minister ways of encouraging and creating effective partnerships of individuals, groups, communities, and governments in the planning and implementation of health and social programs and services and the integration of health programs and services with social programs and services
- to advise the Minister on issues relating to the provision of health and social programs and services
- to encourage the development of programs by communities, governmental and non-governmental agencies and aboriginal organizations to provide innovative, integrated, and effective ways of addressing social needs, and
- to suggest to the Minister new visions for health and social services policy.

SUMMARY OF COUNCIL ACTIVITIES

The Council held meetings:

- April 17 - 18 , 2015Westmark Hotel, Whitehorse
- May 06 - 07, 2015Kwanlin Dun Cultural Centre, Whitehorse
- October 16 - 17, 2015.....Kwanlin Dun Cultural Center, Whitehorse
- November 20 - 21, 2015...Haines Junction Council Chambers, Haines Junction

A summary of the deliberations during its meetings are below.

- Northern Institute of Social Justice
- Coaching – in relation to Mental Health (Mental Wellness)
- Haines Junction Health Center
- Mayor, Haines Junction
- Community Care Coordinator, Champagne and Aishihik First Nation
- Social Worker, Champagne and Aishihik First Nation
- Home Care Nurse / Supervisor
- St Elias Seniors / Elders Society
- Ambulance Volunteers (Haines Junction EMS)
- Pastor, St. Christopher Church, Haines Junction

Haines Junction community meeting notes:

The Council welcomed the opportunity to hear from eight local representatives from the community who provide essential social and health care services to the people of Haines Junction and the surrounding area.

It is important to acknowledge their dedication and commitment to their individual disciplines.

Their presentations were very informative and provided constructive recommendations to many of the complicated issues they face in the provision of services to rural Yukon. These are highlighted in the Minutes (Appendix A) of our two-day meeting and are enclosed in our Report for your consideration

DELIBERATIONS

Perhaps the best way to describe the 2015 - 2016 year is to call it "the year of turmoil" for the Yukon Health & Social Services Council.

The year began with the Council deliberating on the extensive data gathered for its mental wellness project in preparation for the submission of the 2015/16 Council Annual Report in June.

Unfortunately, this was not completed on schedule due to the incompleteness of tasks and unexpected resignation of the Chair in September 2015.

Council reconvened to complete the Annual Report, which was then delivered to the Department and subsequently forwarded to the Legislative Assembly.

With the Council's ongoing commitment to have one rural meeting a year, we convened in Haines Junction, where once again we were intrigued by the depth of the presentations. Ideas and themes that emerged from this meeting were:

1. Office of Patient Relations concept – a formalized process for patients to follow when there is dissatisfaction with access to services within the community
2. Ambulance Volunteers, EMS –Exploration to enhance the functioning of the current ambulance system is necessary as the capacity of volunteers is challenged within the community.

The Council is committed to ensuring that an annual visit to rural Yukon remains a part of the Council's schedule for this and future Councils.

Unfortunately, the majority of the 2015/16 meetings served to complete the Mental Wellness Project with the exception of the one rural meeting in November 2015 as there was a lack of communication with the Department between January-March 2016.

At the onset of the 2016, Council members were requested to submit their resignations as the department felt the role of the Council was redundant. Recognizing that this contravened the Act, Council members chose to continue in our capacity to fulfill our mandate and mission statement.

We remain committed to continue to work with the departmental administration to provide an objective view of social policy and promote cooperation and coordination between the community and all levels of government.

Finally, this past spring, the Minister made three direct appointments of a Chair and two members to the Council. It is the opinion of Council that having additional members supports the viability and sustainability of reaching the Council's mandate.

**FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2015-2016
AS TO MARCH 31, 20167**

| | |
|---------------------------|--------------------|
| BUDGET: | \$40,000.00 |
| Honoraria | \$10,650.00 |
| Travel Costs | \$5,313.00 |
| Meeting Expenses | \$6,817.00 |
| TOTAL EXPENDITURES | \$22,780.00 |

RECOMMENDATIONS

The HSS Council understands that some of its 2014-2015 recommendations may have been addressed. However, the Council would like an update on the status of the 2014-2015 Recommendations as we remain committed to improved mental wellness services throughout the territory.

An ongoing concern of the Council's continues to be that of low membership at the Table; it is our interest to enhance the number of Council members to support functioning in a manner that is more representative of Yukon and more sustainable.

Following extensive inputs and deliberations, Council recommended in 2014-2015 that:

- **A Mental Wellness Deputy Minister committee be established**
- **A Mental Wellness Champion be appointed**
- **A Mental Wellness Forum be convened**
- **Mental Health First Aid for Northern Peoples be made accessible for all Yukon citizens**
- **A Mental Wellness Course, suitable for all Yukon citizens, be developed**
- **An annual Mental Wellness Status report be published for public review**
- **The Yukon Mental Health Act be revisited and updated**

The assistance and dedication of all the members of Council and of those who supported Council in its work is appreciated. Thank you to all of you.

COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP DURING 2015 - 2016

- Scott Herron (Chair) – resigned September 28, 2015
- Maxwell Rispin (Co-Chair)
- Marie Martin
- Maureen Johnstone
- Doug Kearns
- Marjorie Logue, resigned December, 2015
- Eric Stinson

CONTACT INFORMATION

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