

Northern Ontario Service Deliverers Association

**Proceedings of the 2012
Voices in the Wilderness
Pan-Northern Ontario
Homelessness Summit**

June 12 & 13, 2012

Nipissing University, North Bay, Ontario

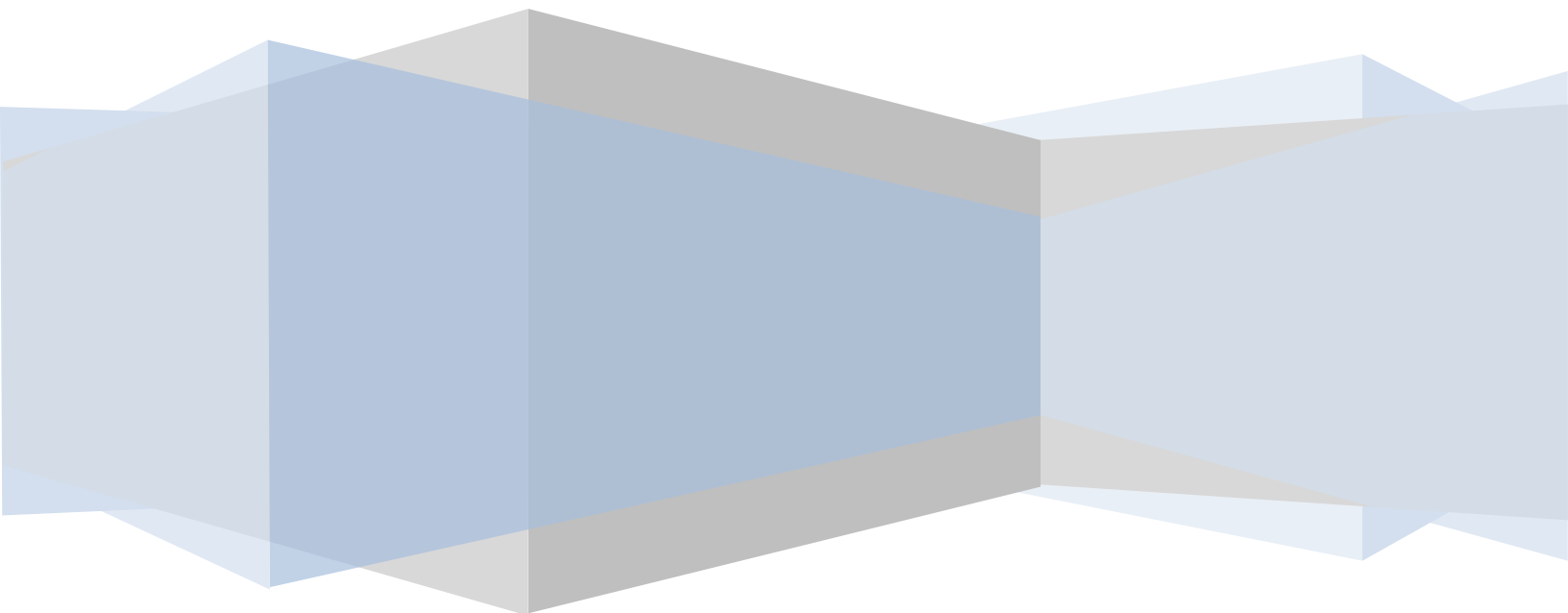


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Foreword

The Voices in the Wilderness Pan Northern Ontario Homelessness Summit was held on June 12th and 13th at Nipissing University in North Bay. The purpose of the Summit was to provide a networking opportunity for persons who address homelessness as part of their job from every region in Northern Ontario.

The Summit was very well attended, including representatives from the District Social Services Administration Boards (DSSABs), geographically diverse chapters of the Canadian Mental Health Association, Public Health Units, Homeless Shelters, Soup Kitchens, Independent Living Centres, Housing Services, and Native Friendship Centres. These individuals came from every district in NOSDA's jurisdiction: Algoma, Cochrane, Kenora, Manitoulin-Sudbury, Nipissing, Parry Sound, Rainy River, Sault Ste. Marie, the City of Greater Sudbury, Thunder Bay and Timiskaming. There were also representatives from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH), Service Canada, Human Resources and Skills Development Canada (HRSDC), Housing Services Corporation (HSC), Ontario Federation of Indian Friendship Centres (OFIFC), Ontario Municipal Social Services Association (OMSSA), the North East Local Health Integration network (NE LHIN), Laurentian University, Salvation Army, and the Red Cross.

The Summit consisted of presentations, engaging discussion periods and plenty of opportunities for networking for people in like fields in different parts of Northern Ontario. Many important issues were brought up and discussed at the Summit and it was found that there are similar problems with housing and homelessness in all areas of Northern Ontario. There may be the potential to create more public awareness of housing and homelessness issues across the North. This could in turn motivate the public to fight as hard as those who attended the Summit to want to make a positive difference in their community.

1.0 INTRODUCTIONS

Chris Stewart, Leo DeLoyde and Bob Barraclough welcomed everyone in attendance and thanked them for travelling, in some cases great distances, in order to attend the Summit. Chris Stewart noted that throughout the next 6 months, NOSDA will release one newsletter every two months detailing homelessness issues in Northern Ontario and what the attendees have been doing with the knowledge they gained from the Summit. Chris Stewart also encouraged everyone to meet 3 new people over dinner, get their e-mail address and communicate at least once a month on homelessness issues.

2.0 ISSUE IDENTIFICATION

Each participant was asked to give a brief introduction, including their name, organization, their organization's focus or concern on homelessness and finally what they hope to get out of the Summit. The guests were then given an opportunity to have some open discussion.

There were some problems identified that were common to all parts of the North: Lack of shelters, funding, public and other transportation, as well as a lack of insight on "near homelessness"

Other issues identified included:

- The Community Start-Up and Maintenance Benefit (CSUMB) being taken away from Ontario Works (OW) and changes to the Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP)
- There needs to be a Northern definition of homelessness
- Incredibly low vacancy rates and "slumlord" landlords
- People in subsidized housing are having trouble paying their increasingly high utility bills and this is causing many people to be evicted or to be near eviction.
- Social Housing in some districts is deteriorating and there is no funding to fix it or build new units
- Social injustice as there is a large inequitable gap in society. "Poor people" do not get a fair share of the wealth in this country. There is also a political gap between public views and vested interest.

3.0 PRESENTATIONS

There were several presentations made at the Summit, each of which was informative and provoked in depth discussions. A brief synopsis of each presentation is as follows:

Guest Speaker: Brenda Combs, Executive Director, Nimkii Naabkawagan Family Crisis Shelter, Sault Ste. Marie

Brenda Combs is the Vice-President of the newly incorporated Aboriginal Shelters Organization of Ontario. This organization will provide one voice for all Aboriginal women, men, children and Elders who are experiencing domestic violence in their communities and will provide training and resources for communities.

The key point of Ms. Combs' presentation was that there is a need to focus on the human factor in dealing with those that are seeking help. Homelessness is a very complex problem and happens because of any numerous set of circumstances. There is no way to calculate the true cost of homelessness, but according to Ms. Combs, human suffering is by far the biggest cost. When an individual is suffering as a result of becoming homeless or being near homeless, the healing process is lengthy and difficult and though treatment may be available, there is a long waiting list.

Another issue Ms. Combs touched on was mental illness among homeless individuals. 16% of all homeless individuals suffer from mental illness. These people do not have the capacity to seek help or treatment and will suffer in silence, with no voice.

Ms. Combs also spoke of women in domestic violence situations. Sometimes it's not as easy as just leaving an abusive partner, many women in these situations have nowhere else to go and often have to choose between staying in an abusive relationship or homelessness. Many individuals feel it is better to stay in abusive situations because they it seems more stable than trying to find room in shelters, especially if they have children with them.

**Panel One – The Current State of Homelessness in Northern Ontario
Presented by Lisa Oliveira, Housing Services Corporation and Greg Suttor,
Consultant to Housing Services Corporation**

Lisa Oliveira gave the group a background of the Housing Services Corporation (HSC). She noted that the Housing Services Act, 2011 requires each DSSAB to draft a ten-year Housing and Homelessness Plan. Working from NOSDA's position paper: **A Pan Northern Ontario Inventory of Homelessness Problems and Practices (2011)**, NOSDA and HSC are collaborating on a Supplement to this paper with the establishment of a data framework. HSC is developing a Housing and Homelessness

Indicator Tool to develop common measures/indicators to enable monitoring and tracking of housing and homelessness issues in the Northern districts of Ontario. Though work on this tool is still in progress, HSC hopes that the Homelessness Summit will open up more sources for data and information. HSC expects that the final report will be released in mid-August 2012 (**See Appendix A for Lisa Oliveira's Presentation**).

Greg Suttor's presentation was regarding his work on an update of NOSDA's 2009 Affordable Housing Paper he is writing for NOSDA and HSC. The presentation then focused on Housing and Homelessness issues and policy changes as well as their implications and context. Mr. Suttor hopes to incorporate elements gathered from the discussions at the Homelessness Summit to help inform conclusions as well as give directions and input for the report (**See Appendix B for Greg Suttor's Presentation**).

In the question period that followed it was noted that challenges faced by DSSABs in implementation include planning, gathering and organizing data and work to be done, consulting with service providers and elected officials, realizing that when setting priorities, other sectors need to agree with those priorities. The Aboriginal community will be consulted to help find data on Aboriginal women, which are underrepresented in the HSC Housing and Homelessness Indicator Tool, due to lack of data.

Panel Two – Current Research on Homelessness in Northern Ontario

Presented by: Dr. Carol Kauppi, Laurentian University/Community-University Research Alliance (CURA)

Dr. Kauppi presented a synopsis of the research on Homelessness done by herself and the Northern Community-University Research Alliance (CURA). To date, there has been ten years of study conducted in Sudbury on homelessness. More recently, North Bay and Timmins have also participated in Dr. Kauppi's Period Prevalence Surveys, as well as in housing workshops, door-to-door surveys, interviews and focus groups with various and diverse groups of people. The output so far has been numerous reports, a film documentary on lived homeless experience and a Photovoice project detailing the conditions that homeless people often live in. There are many plans for additional outputs and research in the coming years.

Dr. Kauppi then detailed some of the findings of her research as well as the implications and outcomes for Northern Ontario (**See Appendix C for Dr. Kauppi's Presentation**).

In the question period that followed it was noted in Sudbury, after every segment of research was conducted it was presented to the community for feedback and a list of priorities. Dr. Kauppi claimed that these studies convinced the City Council to put tax

dollars into homelessness services that were previously unfunded. This prompted some very positive changes in Sudbury, including the opening of a new service centre. Dr. Kauppi's research has helped to increase the capacity for some organizations to deal with homelessness. Also, it is helpful to have homelessness research that is specific to a given community. It was questioned as to why there was little seasonal variation in the data between winter or summer seasons in Timmins and North Bay. Dr. Kauppi indicated that although counter-intuitive, when her team conducted the research in Sudbury every June and January, there were little seasonal differences in homelessness, which has also been the case in Timmins and North Bay

Panel Three – Local Data Collection and the Homeless Individuals and Families Information System (HIFIS)

Presented by Jessica Egginton, Human Resources and Skills Development Canada, Gerry Grandinetti, City of Sault Ste. Marie, Mary Hanna, Social Planning Council of Sudbury, Samuel Henderson, Sault Ste. Marie Innovation Centre, Emma Langdon, District of Nipissing Social Services Administration Board

HIFIS is a software tool created for service providers and shelters for collecting shelter data in order to improve the scope of homelessness data and research from across Canada. This tool is being used to measure migration patterns and to determine why people are at shelters and what made them go in the first place. It is very difficult to gather and compare basic data, but this system has the capacity to provide comparable data across jurisdictions. Knowing migration patterns and occupancy rates would help service providers and shelters with planning and advocacy.

HIFIS is releasing version 3.8 soon and will eventually move to the web-based HIFIS 4, which can be downloaded by any service provider or shelter. The HIFIS software is user friendly and anyone can obtain it, by contacting the HIFIS operators.

Next the presentation went over data collected by HIFIS in North Bay, the City of Greater Sudbury and Sault Ste. Marie, ending with a populated map of food bank usage by postal code in Sault Ste. Marie **(See Appendix D for the HIFIS Presentation)**.

In the question period that followed, it was noted that its possible to input back/retro data into the HIFIS system. HIFIS is in the process of developing a case management tool as well as making the service web-based, in which all service providers can be on the system if the community chooses. One of the issues that can be detected by HIFIS is shelter usage between communities - it is easy to keep track of individuals.

Panel Four – Current Practices in Addressing Homelessness in Northern Ontario

Nipissing District Homelessness Partnership:

Bob Barraclough, Nipissing District Social Services Administration Board, Kristine Woods, Crisis Centre North Bay, Rheanon Funnell, Nipissing Branch Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA), Peter Ferris, North Bay Indian Friendship Centre

The Nipissing District Homelessness Partnership put on an improvised vignette to exemplify how the No Wrong Door Program works. One of the characters played was a homeless individual who approached one of the service providers in the North Bay area with a complex set of problems. The No Wrong Door Program ensures that a client is not given a “cold referral”, which means they are not told to go to another service provider without being sure that it’s a righteous referral. A client can go to any service provider in North Bay with their case and it is the service providers who contact each other to find the best solutions for each client. This means that the client just has to state their case only once and not have to repeat it to several agencies before a solution is found or at least offered.

In the question period that followed this presentation, it was noted that a client can feel intimidated because so many people are involved in their case. Usually, there is only one worker who talks to the client to get all the information they need and then the worker speaks to all the other agencies involved. Client confidentiality is a concern, so service providers do not exchange the whole background of a person, they simply state what is needed to help the client at that instance.

Nipissing University Nursing Program:

Kathy King, Sommer Abertnaithe, Siobhan Dugas, Amanda Guillemette, Kara Ribout, Kaitlin Twynstra

Kathy King and a group of Nursing Students from Nipissing University made a presentation regarding their work in connection to homelessness. This included their work with the Nipissing District Homelessness Partnership and the projects that they have undertaken together, including work with the No Wrong Door Program.

Next the group spoke about the issues of hoarding and a tool they developed to assist the Homelessness Partnership in de-cluttering and hoarding aftercare. Lastly, the

Nursing group urged the audience to include Nursing students in homelessness partnerships and projects in their local communities (**See Appendix E for the Nursing Students' Presentation**).

Ontario Federation of Indian Friendship Centres (OFIFC) / North Bay Indian Friendship Centre:

Kim Schultz, OFIFC, Jena Weber, OFIFC, Peter Ferris, North Bay Indian Friendship Centre

The Ontario Federation of Indian Friendship Centres (OFIFC) is a provincial Aboriginal organization representing the collective interests of 29 member Friendship Centre communities across Ontario, 16 of which are located in Northern Ontario. Kim Schultz and Jena Weber spoke about the various programs offered in the Friendship Centres across the North and the challenges faced by Aboriginals and Friendship Centres, such as racism and discrimination, lack of cultural awareness, and how Aboriginals are disproportionately represented in the homeless population. Another issue is that even though mainstream services may be the best choice for some Aboriginal clients, the responsibility for these clients usually falls solely on the Friendship Centres. However, there is no funding to support programs for clients or to expand to meet the needs of their community.

In moving forward it was stated that there needs to be more sustained engagement and involvement of Aboriginal peoples in the Housing and Homelessness Plans as well as social and community planning. There also needs to be reciprocal partnership development and outreach to the Aboriginal community to increase cultural awareness, trust and recognition of the value and purpose of Friendship Centres (**See Appendix F for the OFIFC Presentation**).

Peter Ferris then spoke of 6 thoughts on Aboriginal Homelessness.

The first was the concern about stereotypes, racism and discrimination and how landlords will discriminate when considering renting to Aboriginal peoples. His suggestion was to increase Native housing and cultural awareness.

The second thought was how Aboriginal people gravitate away from mainstream services because they find service providers judgmental and intrusive and in many cases they find the services themselves are confusing. This may cause service providers or native clients to disengage before a solution is found.

The third thought goes along with this idea as many Aboriginal people are referred to the Friendship Centres by mainstream service providers when the mainstream providers would be a better option. This leaves the Friendship Centres in a position to provide many needs that are not covered in their budget, meaning they have to take the funding out of their core budget. The solution to this is to increase engagement with community partners and raise awareness of the services that the Friendship Centres can provide.

The fourth thought was regarding how few culturally sensitive housing options are available to Aboriginal transitional youth or single men leaving jail. There needs to be an Independent Living Program and homelessness shelter for these individuals.

The fifth thought was about the residential schools and the 60's scoop which left a huge impact on the Native culture. Mr. Ferris suggested that research and awareness of this issue will help lift the stigma around the culture. It was also suggested that housing solutions for Aboriginal people need to be designed and delivered by the Aboriginal community.

Mr. Ferris' last thought was that housing solutions should allow extended Aboriginal families to cohabitate or live in close proximity so that children and parents have the support of grandparents and others **(See Appendix G for Peter Ferris' Presentation)**.

4.0 BREAK-OUT SESSION WORK GROUPS

The attendees broke off into smaller groups to discuss one of 7 questions as well as a final question which each group answered. The discussions were lively and everyone was enthusiastic to contribute their opinions. Flipchart and Word Document versions of the answers to the Group Discussion questions were gathered and combined. Duplications were eliminated and commonalities were brought together. Each question consists of several components, so each sub question was formatted with a heading and then discussion points were listed.

Question 1:

How can we collaborate better across sectors/organizations? How can we best engage other groups that address homelessness (first nations/ mental health/ health care/ addictions services/ youth services/justice)?

1.1 How can we collaborate better across sectors/organizations?

Many organizations are competing for funding and have a survivor mentality, therefore they are reluctant to collaborate as they worry they may receive less funding. Therefore there is a need to identify which sectors are involved in Housing and Homelessness and bring them to the table to form a collective force. New organizations need to be explored, to move the mindset from 'them' and 'their' to 'us' and 'our'. This could be done at the Northern and local levels and could be facilitated by having a Collaboration and Partners Forum. These 'Tables' could then connect, communicate and advocate together, possibly using HIFIS as a link.

1.2 How can we best engage other groups that address homelessness (First Nations/mental health/health care/addictions services/youth services/justice)

There is a need to educate City Councils, politicians and people coming into the field, about social welfare issues. Perhaps regional or local inter-agency groups could host luncheon(s) and presentations at a shelter to connect service providers and government. Health Units must also be brought into the picture as health is a major determinant of homelessness. The development and distribution of one- page guides to accessing housing and social services and sharing them with agencies, schools, hospitals, clinics etc. can help the public and others know what's available locally.

Question 2:

How do we build capacity/develop better ways to address/prevent homelessness in Northern Ontario? How can we share 'best practices' better between large communities with existing planning capacity and small communities with little current planning capacity?

2.1 How do we build capacity/develop better ways to address/prevent homelessness in Northern Ontario?

Local service providers need to work together to ensure there is a broad range of services to offer the community with housing/shelter/social service needs. To strengthen voices for advocacy, these service providers should have regular communications through e-mail and group meetings to address specific issues and work together to find a solution. This group could then address the community to educate them to the issues

in their area regarding homelessness. Once people know what their community needs, fundraising efforts may be more accepted by the public.

2.2 How can we share best practices better between large communities with existing planning capacity and small communities with little current planning capacity?

Local service providers should be having regular regional and local forums on timely topics that could be tied to tele-forums for smaller, more remote community partners. This could be reinforced with regular e-mails with a short summary of homelessness, keeping people up to date regarding funding or any other policy or program changes.

Question 3:

Who are natural partners between organizations addressing homelessness in your community? Why are they ‘natural’ partners? How do you see your organization fitting into the network of agencies serving homeless and at-risk persons? How can this partnership be strengthened to serve the needs of homeless people better? How can we build these partnerships across Northern Ontario? From your perspective, what would be the most important benefits that such a partnership could bring on behalf of homeless and at-risk people?

3.1 Who are your natural homelessness program partners?

Natural homelessness program partners at the local and regional levels include Poverty reduction working groups, Police, Hospitals, EMS, Health Units, Canadian Mental Health, Community Living, Native Friendship Centres, all shelters, sexual assault centres, DSSABs, townships, Fire Department, private sector landlords and housing providers, Child and Family Services, Children’s Aid Society, Humane Society and Provincial Parks.

3.2 Why are they natural partners?

These organizations all come across situations dealing with homelessness on a daily basis and share common clients; they also share resources and expertise to help the clients they have in common.

3.3 How do you see your organization fitting into the network of agencies serving homeless and at-risk persons?

These are all client centered organizations and represent a full spectrum of services, from DSSABs (funders), to Friendship Centres (Native Cultural) to CMHA (mental health and homelessness are connected), to shelters (to provide food, laundry,

showers) to employment centres (for teaching, budgeting, birth certificates, life skills, addiction referrals, child care). All of these agencies bring different expertise and perspectives to the table and the more open everyone is to working together, the better service we can all provide.

3.4 How can this partnership be strengthened to serve the needs of homeless people better?

Local partnerships can be strengthened by having more communication and connecting between organizations, agencies, front line workers and First Nations communities. Know what other agencies are doing and be sure to exchange ideas and information. It is also important to educate each other and the Community because better marketing of what the organization is doing can create a bigger impact on the situation.

3.5 How can we build these partnerships across Northern Ontario?

There needs to be an agency or organization willing to take the lead to start programs and to develop and strengthen partnerships. We need to break down the walls of silos, work from the top down, and involve politicians.

3.6 What would be the most important benefits that such a partnership could bring on behalf of homeless and at-risk people?

When information is shared, organizations fully understand the clients' needs and can work together to support them. Development and implementation of programs like No Wrong Door or OCAN are beneficial to clients and can reduce duplication as people don't have to tell their story multiple times, get less cold(blind and possibly inappropriate) referrals and can minimize the clients abusing the system as services would be more effective for them. By working with the community it is easier for people to identify the homeless population as humans and individuals rather than statistics and 'caseloads'. This would reduce the homelessness stigma and stereotypes.

Question 4:

Who are natural partners between organizations addressing housing in your community? Why are they 'natural' partners? How do you see your organization fitting into the network of agencies serving homeless and at-risk persons? How can this partnership be strengthened to serve the needs of homeless people better? How can we build these partnerships across Northern Ontario? From your perspective, what would be the most important benefits that such a partnership could bring on behalf of homeless and at-risk people?

4.1 Who are the natural Housing Partners in the community?

Natural housing partners at the local or regional levels include all levels of Government, DSSABs, elected officials, Local Health Integration Networks (LHINs), service providers that fund and provide housing, Salvation Army, CMHA, Friendship Centers, agencies working with the disabled, Public Health, police and justice services, churches, shelters, developers, planning departments, landlords (both public and private), funders, the general population, natural supports (family members, friends, community), the people to be housed.

4.2 Why are they natural partners?

These are natural partners because housing cannot be created without them and they are dealing with all the same clients.

4.3 How do you see your agency fitting into the network of agencies serving homeless and at-risk persons?

Agencies to help address and serve the homeless and at risk populations require more collaboration, participation, prioritization, communication and planning of homeless services will ensure less duplication of referrals and that client needs are met. Thunder Bay provides housing for people with substance abuse issues. In Kenora they use intensive case management from all aspects, such as family, the law, and doctors. The Indian Friendship Centre in Sault Ste. Marie helps people coming out of the jail by providing programs for food, resources and immediate occupancy; research needs to be done on who is seeking the agencies' services.

4.4 How can these partnerships be strengthened?

Housing partnerships can be strengthened by improving the connection between the DSSABs and municipalities on systems planning and community development. Breaking down the silos and identify and minimize gaps as agencies need to work together and find a collaborative approach because they're all serving the same people. Politicians also need to help make changes and create political will. Create Support systems for landlords (both private and public) need to be created as this benefits homeless people because it creates housing stability.

4.5 How do we build these partnerships across Northern Ontario?

To enhance communication, online community networks and social media, such as the Voices in the Wilderness group on Facebook can be used. Perhaps NOSDA could bring leadership in disseminating information and help in coordinating information sharing and encouraging partnerships. Also, NOSDA could create opportunities to collect and share data such as costs associated with hospital stays, seniors in Alternative Levels of Care, cost of recidivist homeless persons who end up in prisons, increased policing costs, and increases in health care and mental health care as this will show the economic benefit of building housing and mitigating homelessness.

4.6 From your perspective, what would be the most important benefits that such a partnership could bring on behalf of homeless and at-risk people?

Collaboration would be an important benefit to help identify gaps, needs, and possible solutions so we could do a better job of serving the people as well as provide an economic benefit to the community (e.g.: decline in hospital stays).

Question 5:

From your perspective, what services can be provided to prevent homelessness by supporting people to stay in their homes? What services can be developed to facilitate transitioning people from the street and shelters to safe, adequate and stable housing?

5.1 From your perspective, what services can be provided to prevent homelessness by supporting people to stay in their homes?

A community should assess the services that they currently have in place and preserve the core services that are working. Advocacy should then be encouraged among service groups for new programs such as extended client services, waitlist management, home sharing programs, consistent funding for food banks and a formal program for educating landlords. Community awareness could be enhanced through stakeholders(users/providers) involved with No Wrong Door, hospitals, community workers, 211 and food banks to promote programs such as job training, resume building, budgeting and finances. Some regulation changes could also help people stay in their homes through standardizing procedures between municipalities, making changes regarding housing fees and implementing co-habitation programs where multiple people can share a home.

5.2 What services can be developed to facilitate transitioning people from the street and shelters to safe, adequate and stable housing?

One way to transition people from the street is to dedicate a case worker to each person that is in a shelter or on the street to create a plan of action, also having social workers in the hospital to ensure people are not released back into homelessness. Continue to develop and scale the "No Wrong Door" model for more communities but be sure that front-line staff is communicating effectively. Have drop-in centers to provide information regarding all services available and to provide internet access. Once housed, services can be brought to clients like housing support services, detox programs, counseling, etc. or offer vehicle services so individuals have access to programs. Once stable, programs can be offered to keep individuals housed such as linkages to employment through the employment rehabilitation program, job training, life skills, budgeting, etc. Conduct regular evaluations to ensure clients stay housed.

Question 6:

What specifically is needed in order to effectively address urban Aboriginal homelessness in the north? How can Aboriginal persons/organizations be more effectively engaged in local/Pan Northern planning/service delivery to prevent/mitigate homelessness? How can we do a better job to help First Nations people access services?

6.1 What specifically is needed in order to effectively address urban Aboriginal homelessness in the North?

There is a need for more partnerships and relationships with other agencies and organizations to know who provides what services. Friendship Centres can define a role for themselves and want to know where they fit in with the DSSABs so they can work together. The creation of Memoranda of Understanding among agencies to formalize relationships, and develop Terms of Reference for planning bodies with the inclusion of specific cultural aspects for any projects would be a useful first step.

Another useful idea identified was to implement a homelessness committee and break the committee down into smaller areas, but regularly come together to meet and share as this will foster more engagement between service providers and help to co-jointly seek appropriate funding and social supports. This committee could then come together with solutions, projects and proposals. It was suggested to be sure to include decision makers in these committees. It was felt that funding needs to be more spread out and not just based on statistics, as there are several different providers and groups of individuals requiring assistance. Human resources needs such as hiring policies and practices ought to be considered in order to have employees among the same groups

you are addressing, such as hiring First Nations workers. Also, there is support needed for Aboriginal research and to specifically train mainstream employees about Aboriginal culture and needs.

One perversion of the current social welfare model dealing with homelessness is that once a homeless or at risk of homelessness individual is put out of child welfare or the criminal system, they lose social and financial support and are left to fend for themselves. This is only going to get worse with the recent loss of the Community Start Up Benefit. Transition is difficult as these individuals lack cultural understanding in finding housing and financial support. There is a need to address underlying issues such as overcrowding, violence in the home, etc. and take preventative measures. Awareness needs to start at a local grassroots level but also needs to be present at a higher level (provincial) in decision making in order to prioritize Northern and Aboriginal solutions. Some solutions include: access to education, identify emergency housing options with Native housing providers, minimal sentences for non-violent drug offenders, addiction treatment services, include hydro as part of rent agreement, Rent Bank/Utility Bank, and looking at alternative housing solutions.

6.2 How can Aboriginal persons/organizations be more effectively engaged in local/Pan Northern planning/services delivery to prevent/mitigate homelessness?

Groups need to make Aboriginal peoples feel valuable while sitting on their organization's boards and encourage Cultural awareness. It needs to be understood that Aboriginal peoples are the experts in what they need. There needs to be an understanding between the Aboriginal and Mainstream silos. Further, service providers need to be culturally competent. There needs to be better information sharing and constant communication between local organizations providing services to homeless and at risk of homelessness populations.

6.3 How can we do a better job to help First Nation people access services?

To do a better job of helping First Nations people access services, it would be useful to provide housing first, to draw in individuals in need then provide the services as needed. Increasing monetary support for Aboriginal service providers and sustainable funding that reflects the needs of the community would also be a great help. Another measure would be to create a map of all services provided in a community and have it visible in all agencies. People are generally not aware of what is available in a community and this will make the available services visible to everyone. The Government and policy makers also need to take on a more individual and holistic perspective.

Question 7:

What are the privacy and Freedom of Information issues that cause difficulty in addressing homelessness? How can we improve how we communicate?

7.1 What are the privacy and Freedom of Information issues that cause difficulty in addressing homelessness?

Organizations are bound by legislation at the municipal, federal, and provincial levels which makes it difficult to share data. Many homeless individuals have health issues, which sometimes involves sharing information outside the circle of care and between Ministries and communities. This can create a gap between medical information and the individual's care as health conditions must be kept confidential yet need to be shared in order for the individual to receive their required level of care. Human and financial resources are needed to share information and data but this cannot always be done as some organizations don't have the budget to hire workers for data collection and others have poor relationships with other service providers.

7.2 How can we improve how we communicate?

Communications improvements can be made through collection of data sharing agreements, breaking down the silos within organizations, departments, between DSSABs, community partners, Ministries and cities. Currently, layers of consent forms are needed to share information across service providers and agencies to advocate on a client's behalf. Building trust between organizations as to what happens when information and data is shared will also help. This can be accomplished through being at the tables, working together, increased collaboration, informing internal service providers as to how important the client data is and developing an understandable community standard of privacy.

Question 8

What are the most important steps we can make from this Summit in the next year to prevent people from being homeless?

8.1 Advocacy

A main step to take to reduce and/or prevent homelessness over the next year would be to follow up this Homelessness Summit with elected officials throughout Northern Ontario, provincial ministries and delegates from this Summit to discuss northern homelessness and housing issues. Advocate to local decision makers for more funding and housing. Make the community aware of your organization by attending City/Town

Council meetings or through the media. Look at what community strategies, programs and solutions exist to address community needs and develop new strategies from research. There is a need to change the decision makers' mindsets and remove the stigma around homelessness as there is a need for an affordable and sustainable model for housing.

8.2 Collaboration

Agencies need to collaborate, share information including best and promising practices among one another. There should be a liaison between agencies to assist in building partnerships, have meetings and enhance collaborative efforts that are already in place. Also the upper level in an organization needs to communicate with their lower levels regarding what work is being done. There also needs to be more opportunities for face to face meetings between northwest and northeast Ontario.

8.3 Communications/Information sharing

Keep the lines of communication open to everyone in the community. Make use of 211, the online Community Resource Directory and Street Smarts Book. There is a need to communicate which services are provided in a community so people know how to access them. It is also important to build the community knowledge base so all are aware that homelessness is an existing problem in every community and show personal depth and complexity of those people that are homeless to enhance public understanding and their perceptions of homelessness and poverty

8.4 Education

Education and marketing need to be used to make the citizens aware of the supports that are available to them when they are in need. Advertise these supports through the media, such as radio ads, newspaper articles, or by holding an open house. Educate clients on basic life skills and money management in order to prevent the revolving door. Education is also crucial in changing the stigma surrounding homelessness and poverty.

8.5 Engagement

Invite Aboriginal stakeholders to be a part of the 10 year Housing and Homelessness plans and improve Aboriginal relations across all Northern Districts. Invite people from across sectors to work together and motivate each other to keep going. Commit to talking to one person in the homelessness sector once a month. Work with community partners such as religious and service organizations and make them aware of the services provided in the community. This ensures that most organizations in the

community who deal with the people can point clients in the right direction when asked for help as opposed to just the people who provide services. Hold an education sessions for municipalities to assist in de-stigmatization of homelessness and mental illness. Bring the private sector to the table and get those people in power involved and informed on current housing conditions and availability, also expand corporate stakes in homelessness programs. When students move into the community, there should be an information session between landlords and tenants to discuss responsibilities, rights and options. Some things that can be discussed include utilities, garbage day, previous damage to the house, repairs etc.

8.6 Tools

The use of HIFIS could be beneficial to sharing information across the North. Circulating a regular homelessness report card could provide accurate, clear, and concise information on homelessness. Facebook and social media can be used as a bridge between e-mailing and meeting face-to-face. A common website for all agencies to maintain communication would also be helpful. The Homeless Hub website has a course that will be offered for those working on frontlines with mental health, housing, etc. Develop a Service Map for each community. There should be a Community Emergency Fund, run and administered by one committee and applications could be done through case workers. Have protocols in place with new families in the community that require assistance, such as a universal release or consent form.

5.0 CONCLUSION

We welcome YOUR feedback. Please contact us at:

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Or, post a message to our Facebook page,
<http://www.facebook.com/groups/378323442214478/>

APPENDICES

Appendix A: Lisa Oliveira's PowerPoint Presentation

Pan Northern Ontario Housing & Homelessness Data Indicator Profile

Developing an evidence-based tool

Lisa M. Oliveira, Senior Research Analyst
Liz McGuire, Research and Policy Advisor

*Voices in the Wilderness, A Pan Northern Ontario Homelessness Summit
June 12 & 13, 2012 (Wilfrid Laurier University)*



Housing Services Corporation

Housing Services Corporation

- Established in 2002 as the Social Housing Services Corporation under the *Social Housing Reform Act*
- The *Housing Services Act, 2011*, introduced the change in name to the Housing Services Corporation (HSC)
- Mandated activities to deliver programs to benefit Ontario's affordable housing sector- *Group Insurance Program, Capital Reserve Investment Program, Natural Gas Bulk Purchasing, and Research and Best Practices*
- Board composition is legislated- always a northern rep- Gary Scripnick
- Housing and homelessness plans: must include an assessment of current and future housing needs

HSC

Background

- **NOSDA Position Paper: Pan Northern Ontario Inventory of Homelessness Problems & Practices (2011)**
- Number of reports chronicling homelessness issues, programs and projects, but NO consistent data gathered on a Pan Northern Ontario basis
- Recommendations: "research on factors contributing to homelessness"
- Supplement to the paper: HSC and NOSDA (Chris Stewart) are working together to establish a data framework – Pan Northern Ontario

HSC

Project focus

Housing and Homelessness Indicator Tool

To develop common measures/indicators to enable monitoring and tracking of housing and homelessness issues in the northern districts of Ontario

HSC

Objectives

Housing and Homelessness Indicator Tool

- Profile the social and economic conditions from a Pan Northern Ontario lens
- Provide a systematic framework to track/monitor statistics and trends concerning housing, poverty, and homelessness
- Provide a common fact base to articulate housing and homelessness issues to enable collective action and joint community discussion
- Give a framework within which northern districts can work together to achieve common goals
- Provide a resource to assist in the development of housing and homelessness plans

HSC

4

Methodology

Indicators

Selection of Indicators

- Canadian jurisdictional scan to identify common types of indicators
- Scan of public and institutional reports & publications by region and community sources

Sources of Data

- Statistics Canada- Census
- CMHC
- Provincial (MCSS, MMAH)
- ONPHA- Social Housing
- DSSAB program data
- HIFIS- shelter capacity
- Ontario Food Bank

HSC

5

Indicators- Themes

Pan Northern Ontario

Composition & demographic characteristics	Income security & economic well-being	State of the housing market
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Composition of Northern Districts in Ontario Population, Land Area and Population Density Population Characteristics (rural, urban, seniors, immigrant, aboriginal, median age) Households and Housing Tenure (owners, renters and band housing) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Median Household Income Characteristics of Low-Income Families and Individuals Employment & Unemployment Rates 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Structural type Composition of the rental housing market Changes to rental housing supply Changes in owner and renter households Rent ranges Need for major repairs Social housing supply, demand, waiting times

HSC

6

Indicators- Themes

Pan Northern Ontario

People at risk of losing their housing	People who have lost their housing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Households spending more than 30% of their income on shelter Average rents compared to average wages Ontario Works- Households and Beneficiaries Social housing arrears Use of provincial rent bank Use of emergency energy fund 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> # of estimated homeless Emergency shelter usage Use of shelter by children, families and adults # in transitional units Number of food banks Soup kitchen use

HSC

7

Example of Indicator matrix

CHARACTERISCA	Wipacung	Perry Sound	Maribou	Greater Sudbury	Thornhill	Alcona	Thunder Bay	St. Catharines	Kanora	NOZDA	Ontario
Pop. Region of the Housing Market	60,075	22,001	9,432	99,493	19,220	27,222	28,712	71,822	25,877	20,810	1,971,888
% of public housing occupied	87	49	28	82	86	88	82	86	84	74	84
% of vacant housing occupied	87	82	73	87	72	70	71	73	70	82	71
% of vacant housing occupied	22	16	16	22	24	29	29	29	29	16	29
Pop. rate of total B	170,824	228,729	108,281	181,800	108,611	119,880	123,812	129,223	122,294	171,024	1,902,978
Average gross rent B	642	672	222	626	226	266	272	617	267	622	622
% of renters single person households	47	48	21	43	42	46	43	40	na	20	48
% of renters family units (10/10/0/2011)	61	na	na	24	20	na	na	24	19	21	na
% of renters family units (10/10/0/2011)	42	40	22	40	22	24	21	42	na	20	27
% of vacant housing looking single person	10	10	16	8	11	8	8	8	7.2	16	10.2
Public Housing											
Public housing units in housing list 2011	800	274	310	1,841	505	1,844	310	1,226	1,019	262	6,689
Public housing for HR	450	na	na	na	275	na	na	275	600	na	na
Public housing for 20	225	na	na	na	25	na	na	150	175	na	na
Public housing for 20	100	na	na	na	50	na	na	125	75	na	na
Public housing for 20	229	77	114	460	na	416	71	100	217	112	37,834
Public housing for 20	425	175	125	808	na	748	194	280	230	70	56,029
Public housing for 20	310	122	151	822	na	270	122	410	312	181	50,987
Public housing for 20	25	na	na	na	<25	na	na	50	<25	na	na
Public housing for 20	65,806	2-5y	na	1.6-1.8y	na	4-8y	3+y	252d	2+y	1-1.2y	na
Public housing for 20	66,876	7-8y	na	65-111w	na	5-8y	1-2y	na	1.5+y	2-4y	na
Public housing for 20	10,076	2-5y	na	21-60w	122d	4-5y	1-2y	na	1+y	1.5-2y	na

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Challenges/Limitations

- Census data 2006 and new releases 2011 (staggered)
- Indicators- will not provide an in-depth analysis of any one issue
- Status of existing data and information varies widely by DSSABs
- Limited availability of data on First Nations and Aboriginals relating to housing and homelessness
- Limited available data to highlight scope of homelessness (youth etc.) and homeless service utilization

HSC

Status

- Continuing to refine some indicators
- Data collection for homelessness indicators are in progress
- Write-up of the report- final report mid Aug 2012

HSC

Thank you

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Appendix B: Greg Suttor's PowerPoint Presentation

Housing and Homelessness Challenges in Northern Ontario

Presentation to
Pan-Northern Ontario Homelessness Summit
North Bay, June 12, 2012

Greg Suttor
for the
Northern Ontario Service Deliverers Association

1

Overview of Presentation

- Environment...
 - Provincial policy, economic, social, housing market...
- Issues identified by DSSABs/SMs
 - Affordable housing
 - Homelessness
 - Program issues in these spheres
 - Housing with supports
- In conclusion...
 - Ideas at summit for best practices, collaboration, capacity-building, federal/provincial action...

2

About this Presentation

- This presentation reflects a draft report commissioned by NOSDA in collaboration with Housing Services Corporation (HSC).

Purpose of report

- Overview –Northern Ontario issues & needs
- Update the 2009 report in significantly changing context
- Assist dialogue among sectors (DSSAB/SM, Health, Aboriginal, other)
- Articulate Northern Ontario issues to federal and provincial governments
- Potential frame of thinking for DSSAB officials

Approach

- Review existing reports
- Interview key staff at each DSSAB/SM
- Synthesize

3

Context – June 12-13



4

Context – June 12-13

- Help set the stage – shared base of information
- Different sectors (DSSAB/SM, Aboriginal, VAW, Health, others) have different parts of the picture
- This presentation largely from DSSAB/SM viewpoint
- Incorporate elements of June 12-13 discussions into final report
- Move toward some consensus on next steps in best practices and capacity-building

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Housing/Homeless Policy Change

- Stimulus → retrenchment.
- New Ontario policy framework –housing & homelessness
 - *Long Term Affordable Housing Strategy*
 - *Housing Services Act* and *Housing Policy Statement*
 - Shared responsibility but no significant change to funding framework for social & affordable housing
 - Each DSSAB/SM to prepare a 10-year plan for housing and homelessness (by Jan 2014)
- Funding levels – housing programs
 - Reduced funding AHP + RRAP → IAH program
 - Declining federal social housing transfer
- Phase 1 consolidation of homelessness programs.
- Other and related policy spheres
 - Mental health & assisted living priorities of LHINS...
 - Aboriginal programs...
 - Social Assistance Review...

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Policy Change – Implications

- Much larger local/regional responsibility for setting priorities in affordable housing and homelessness.
- Need for increased planning capacity of DSSABs/SMs
- Need for more collaboration among sectors
- 10-year plans as an opportunity to set vision and foster collaborative planning, despite unclear future funding
- Shared responsibilities of all levels of government
- Homelessness defined to include housing stability

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Economic & Social Context

Population

- Stable overall but changing composition
- Large ongoing increase in seniors
- Rising Aboriginal population, migration to towns
- Growth in large centres + several mining towns
- Declining populations in many areas

Economy and labour market

- Growing vs. declining sectors & places
- Demand for people with skills/professions, relatively few jobs for unskilled
- Incomes lower than provincial levels, more with low income (seasonal jobs, elderly, Aboriginal)

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Economic & Social (cont'd)

Housing market

- Flat population does not mean stable housing market
- Shifting needs of old elderly
- Declining communities vs. stable/growing ones
- Repair and replacement / older housing
- Ownership is affordable but...
- Little new production in market
- Growth → tighter rental markets, rising rents

Geography

- Need to travel to jobs, services...need a car
- Many communities without adequate local services
- Extra costs to operate programs

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Housing Program Context

- Social housing is ¼ of rental sector
 - Federal + DSSAB/SM funding
- Programs for repair and new affordable
 - AHP 2005-11 >2,900 repair +2,900 new affordable
 - RRAP (rehabilitation) was 300-400 units/year
 - Aboriginal housing programs 2007 onward
- Housing with supports: significant role of Health/LHINs, MCSS, and community agencies/providers they fund
 - Partly intersecting with DSSAB/SM role, partly not
 - Program/project specific collaborations e.g. CCAC support in DSSAB/SM seniors social housing
 - Supportive housing – Health & MCSS sectors
 - Some incremental added funding/units

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Housing Issues & Needs

Main points from existing documents & interviews

- Lack of low-rent options for people with low incomes
 - Tighter rental market means fewer options
 - Market rents may be moderate but still too high for low incomes
- Landlords can be more choosy
- Widespread need for major repair
- High costs to build housing and to operate it
- Need for supports (more to follow...)
- Issues in social housing (more to follow...)

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Housing Program Issues

- Social housing
 - Mismatch of stock to waiting list
 - Long-term good repair & financial sustainability
 - SHRRP was good but needs are ongoing
 - Less federal \$, pressure to backfill locally
 - Higher-need tenants, need more support
- New affordable supply and repair
 - \$8M/yr (IAH) is significantly lower funding level
 - Constrained options 2012-14
 - First time without multiple repair/retrofit programs
- Rent supplement/housing allowances
 - Little funding + fewer landlords interested

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Homelessness Program Context

- Provincial homelessness programs
 - All DSSABs/SMs using CHPP, Rent Bank, EEF, CSUB
 - Variability in shelter systems; few dom hostels
 - Often more connected with OW than with "housing"
- Larger vs. smaller DSSABs/SMs
 - More complete vs. less complete range of services
 - Federal HPS in the 4 largest centres only
- Local resources
 - Significant re energy, shelters, in larger centres
- VAW system...
- Movement toward "no wrong door" coordination/access
- Short-term clients ... many people with skills/training needs, income from OW/ODSP, clients in VAW, ...
- Long-term clients ... many are the same people who are clients in mental health & addiction services

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Homelessness Issues & Needs

Main points from existing documents & interviews
...including housing stability issues

- Assisted living – front & centre issue
 - Personal Needs / community stability & jobs
- High demand for energy assistance everywhere
- Migrants to urban centres with few skills/supports
- Mental health and addictions – available supports are much smaller than the scale of needs
- Many Aboriginal people in need
- ALC at hospital discharge, demands on social housing
- Large number of absolute & hidden homeless in some communities (remote / boom towns / larger centres)
- Youth couch-surfing
- Few low-rent options, shelters as interim housing

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Homelessness Program Issues

- Identified gaps
 - In local shelter systems
 - Inadequate mental health & addictions supports
 - High demand for energy assistance
 - Culturally appropriate services for Aboriginal people
- Overall funding levels
- Coordinated services for high-needs clients
- Provincial consolidation of homeless programs
 - Desirable flexibility / uncertainty / funding risks
- Smaller DSSABs
 - How to develop a more complete system
 - High needs in remote areas
- Larger DSSABs/SMs
 - How to move toward Housing First, full range of prevention, comprehensive system planning

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Housing with Supports

- Intersection between affordable housing, housing stability, and homelessness
- Two client groups stand out
 - Assisted living (seniors)
 - Mental health & addictions
- Other populations as well...
- DSSAB/SM interest in "Housing First" approaches
 - Requires enhanced availability of supports
 - Requires arrangements w/ landlords + non-market options

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DSSAB/SM Planning Capacity

- What resources needed for needs assessments and the planning process?
- Need for more effective DSSAB/SM collaboration with two main sectors
 - Health (assisted living + mental health/addictions)
 - Aboriginal

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In conclusion...

Discussions at summit will inform conclusions and directions of this NOSDA report, e.g.

- Additional articulation of Northern Ontario issues
- Capacity-building – specific steps...?
- Collaboration/dialogue between different sectors
- Steps for 2012–2013 (the period of 10-year plan development and phase 1 homeless consolidation)
- Desired federal and provincial action

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Appendix: C Dr. Carol Kauppi's Presentation

Current Research on Homelessness in Northern Ontario

Carol Kauppi, Ph.D., Director
Professor, School of Social Work

Henri Pallard, LLB, Doctorate, Associate Director
Department of Law and Justice

Emily Faries, Ph.D., Associate Director
Department of Indigenous Studies, U. of Sudbury

Suzanne Lemieux, M.A., Research Associate & Coordinator

Poverty, Homelessness and Migration
Centre for Research in Social Justice and Policy
Laurentian University

Presentation to

Voices in the Wilderness: A Pan Northern Ontario Homelessness Summit

POVERTY, HOMELESSNESS AND MIGRATION
PAUVRETE, SANS ABRISSHE ET MIGRATION

Nipissing University, 12 June 2012

Poverty, Homelessness and Migration (PHM)—a 5 to 6 year project



The five-year project to create a Northern Community-University Research Alliance was awarded \$1,000,000 by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC).

It is a project of the Centre for Research in Social Justice and Policy (CRSJP) at Laurentian University. The project title is Community-based Responses to Poverty, Homelessness and Migration in Northern Ontario.

POVERTY, HOMELESSNESS AND MIGRATION
PAUVRETE, SANS ABRISSHE ET MIGRATION

Funders and partners

- Cochrane District Social Services Administration Board
- District of Nipissing Social Services Administration Board
- Nipissing District Homelessness Partnership
- Local service providers and community partners in 11 communities and First Nations in northeastern Ontario
- Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC)
- Northern Ontario Heritage Fund
- Arts Council of Ontario
- Laurentian University

POVERTY, HOMELESSNESS AND MIGRATION
PAUVRETE, SANS ABRISSHE ET MIGRATION

We thank homeless people and those at risk of homelessness for their help with this project.

Introduction

- There are concerns among researchers in Canada that hunger, poverty and homelessness are increasing in Canada, given the current policy context.
- On a per capita basis, poverty, housing need and homelessness are as acute in northern communities as in the southern regions of Canada.
- They have been persistent problems through times of economic boom and bust.

Goals

- To involve local communities in the delivery of services and the formation of social and economic policies, enhance social inclusion and promote social justice.
- To raise awareness of research findings.
- To explore and act on possibilities for change.

PHM conference in Timmins, 2011



Research in Sudbury: 2000-2009

- A decade of research completed in Sudbury.
- Nine period-prevalence studies to estimate the size of the homeless population in Sudbury:
 - 462 individuals, on average, at any given time.
 - 40% were girls or women.
- Neighbourhood surveys to understand perceptions, attitudes and prior experiences with homelessness.
- Interviews and focus groups.
- Photography project involving homeless persons.

Poverty, Homelessness and Migration (PHM)

- Funded for 2010 to 2016.
- A Northern Community-University Research Alliance (CURA).
- Our CURA is about striving for social and economic prosperity in northern communities.
- What is required are:
 - strong partnerships,
 - a sound program of research, and
 - the mobilization of communities.
- The aim is to produce results that can succeed in commanding the attention of decision makers and to inform policy.

Methods

- We are employing both traditional and innovative research methods including
 - survey methods, including period prevalence counts of homeless people
 - policy and documentary analysis
 - qualitative interviewing
 - focus groups/workshops
 - oral history
 - digital methods (photography, video)
 - field research.

Data collection

- Collecting base-line comparative data will help us to understand the definitions, extent, nature, forms and central causes of homelessness and migration in 3 cities, 4 northern towns, and 4 First Nations communities:
 - Sudbury, North Bay and Timmins
 - Hearst, Cochrane, Moosonee, Iroquois Falls
 - Constance Lake, Moose Cree, Fort Albany and Kashechewan
- Various studies in participating communities over five-six years.

Research activities conducted to date

- Two housing workshops in Sudbury and a design charrette.
- Period prevalence surveys in Timmins and North Bay.
- Door-to-door survey in Hearst to study issues relating to poverty, homelessness and migration.
- Photovoice projects conducted or ongoing in 6 communities
- Documentary film-making with a formerly homeless Cree man.
- Interviews and focus groups in Hearst, North Bay and Moosonee.
- Discussion of future plans with community partners.

Research activities planned for summer, 2012

- Panel study of homeless and formerly homeless persons with experience of mental illness: Sudbury, North Bay, Timmins and Iroquois Falls.
- Digital storytelling in Sudbury and Moosonee.
- Research and evaluation of the “Iroquois Falls Seniors Apartment Corporation”, an innovative housing project for seniors.
- Photovoice projects in Cochrane, Constance Lake, Sudbury Kashechewan and Iroquois Falls.
- Policy studies of housing models.

Methodology

- **Period prevalence study**
 - A structured questionnaire was used to collect the data from people using each service.
 - Each study was conducted for 7 consecutive days.
 - Differentiated between absolute and near homelessness.
 - Study design allows for the exclusion of duplicate cases.

Period prevalence count (PPC)

- Period prevalence studies provide estimates of the number of homeless people, including those absolutely homeless and at high risk.
- In each study, the same methodology is used to enable comparisons.
- Local agencies conduct a count or census of the homeless population using food services, emergency shelters, social service agencies, and other services supporting this population.

Definitions of homelessness:

HIGH RISK AND ABSOLUTE HOMELESSNESS

- **High risk/near homeless:**
 - Those who are at substantial risk of being in the street in the immediate future.
 - Those in sub-standard housing.
- **Absolute homelessness:**
 - Those who are absolutely, periodically, or temporarily without shelter.
 - No place to call home.
 - Staying in a shelter/on streets.
 - Staying with friends or family (‘couch surfers’, hidden homeless, people ‘bunking down’ or ‘doubling up’).

Results of the PPCs in Timmins and North Bay

- 27 agencies participated in North Bay
- 21 agencies participated in Timmins
- Analysis of unduplicated cases:
 - North Bay, July 2011: 513 people.
 - Timmins in January 2011: 720 people.

Participant concerns: water damage, moisture problems, mould, improper wiring



Safety issues



"[The door] had a door handle on it but now it's gone. I don't have one anymore."

Participant concerns about housing in Sudbury: unresponsive landlords

- Rental housing was generally in poor repair. Landlords were seen as taking advantage of tenants.
- "The landlord knows who they can mess with, who they can play games with. Since these people took the building over, it's just falling down."



Findings from North Bay and Timmins: Total homeless sample

- Including dependent children/adolescents:
- 374 absolutely homeless people
- 858 people at risk of becoming homeless

- 37% were children or adolescents under age 18
- 55% of adults were women

Age range: total homeless sample

- | □ Infancy to 90 years. | |
|------------------------|------------|
| age | percentage |
| □ 0-11 | 28 |
| □ 12-17 | 12 |
| □ 18-24 | 08 |
| □ 25-34 | 13 |
| □ 35-44 | 13 |
| □ 45-54 | 15 |
| □ 55+ | 11 |

Homelessness among children and adults by gender: total homeless sample

- Significant gender difference by age groups.
- More girls and women in every age group except for the youngest (0-11) and oldest (55+).
- Examples:
 - 54% of children 0-11 were male.
 - 59% of those 35-44 were women.
 - 56% of those 55+ were men.
- Women, children and adolescents comprise 73% of the homeless.

Cultural groups and Aboriginal heritage of the total homeless sample

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----|
| □ Among adults: | |
| □ Anglophones of European heritage | 53% |
| □ Francophones of European heritage | 18% |
| □ Aboriginal heritage | 29% |

Participant concerns: sleeping rough



Participant concerns: food insecurity



Absolutely homeless persons

- Equal numbers of women and men
 - 182 women and 182 men
- Age groups:
 - Overall, more homeless girls and younger women
 - More homeless men over age 44
 - Examples:
 - 62% of 12-17 year olds were girls
 - 62% of 35-44 year olds were women
 - 73% of those aged 55+ were men

Cultural groups and Aboriginal heritage of those **absolutely** homeless

- Among adults:
 - Anglophones of European heritage 50%
 - Francophones of European heritage 13%
 - Aboriginal heritage 36%
 - Visible minorities 01%

Summary of our study findings in relation to the literature

- Our results are consistent with published literature.
- All material aspects of housing/lack of housing known to impact on health (Shaw, 2004) were described by our participants in surveys, photos, interviews and focus groups.
- Housing conditions of poor and homeless people in the northeast of Ontario are similar to those of Aboriginal people in Australia (Baile & Wayte, 2006).

Implications

- Housing is an important social determinant of health:
 - Impacts on health in a direct, material sense.
 - Is a central aspect of the association between *poverty* and health.
 - International research is showing that poor housing in childhood is related to health impacts over the lifecourse.
 - Shaw (2004) argued that poor housing affects health in numerous, relatively minor ways that have cumulative impacts.

Implications

- Need for more research on homelessness, housing, migration and health in northern Ontario.
 - Family homeless is a key issue to be examined.
- Housing policy and strategies:
 - Increase the availability of affordable housing.
 - Improve rental housing:
 - Central heating.
 - Electrical/plumbing upgrades.
 - Refurbishment.
 - Increase services to link people to appropriate housing.

Implications and outcomes

- Involve local communities in the formation of social and environmental policy, enhance social inclusion and promote social justice.
- Raise awareness of research findings.
- Explore and act on possibilities for change.
- Carry recommendations forward to local and provincial governments, policy-makers and funders to establish new supports.

QUESTIONS?



Thank you

ΠΟΛΥΤΡΟΠΟΣ ΤΥΧΗ ΒΕΒΑΙΟΤΗΤΑ ΚΑΙ ΜΕΤΑΚΙΝΗΣΗ
POVERTY, HOMELESSNESS AND MIGRATION
PAUVRETÉ, SANS-ABRISME ET MIGRATION

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Appendix D: HIFIS PowerPoint Presentation



Voices in the Wilderness: A Pan-northern Summit

*A Piece of the Puzzle
Information and Data Collection
and Homeless Individuals and
Families Information System*

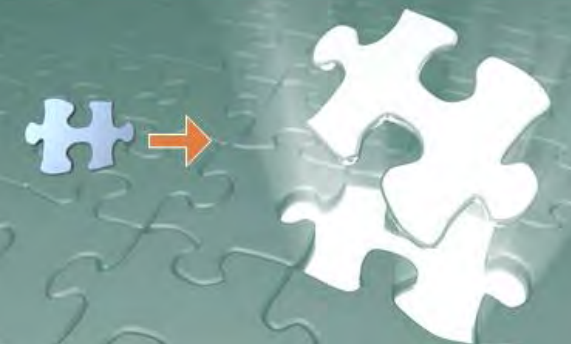
June 12, 2012

Jessica Egginton, Partnership Analyst, Human Resources Skills Development Canada
 Gerry Grandinetti, Community Coordinator, City of Sault Ste. Marie
 Mary Hanna, Community Coordinator, Social Planning Council of Sudbury
 Sam Henderson, HIFIS Community Trainer/ Technical Support, Sault Ste Marie Innovation Centre
 Emma Langdon, Data Coordinator, District of Nipissing Social Services Administration Board

Overview




- Item 1 Why do we need information and data?
- Item 2 What can we learn from information and data?
- Item 3 How do we collect information and data?
- Item 4 Homeless Individuals and Families Information System
- Item 5 Northern Ontario HIFIS Users
North Bay/Nipissing, Sudbury and Sault Ste. Marie
- Item 6 Questions



Help answer:

	Who.....	What.....
•	Housing and homelessness	plan development
•	Assist in community	planning
•	Assist in evidence-based	program and service delivery
•	Program and service	evaluation

Why Do We Need Information and Data?



Where..... **When.....** **Why?**

- ❖ Facilitate integrated service delivery
- ❖ Resource allocation
- ❖ Keep stakeholders informed
- ❖ Advocacy

What Can We Learn from Information and Data?

What does homeless look like in northern Ontario?

- ❖ Moving beyond mandated data
- ❖ Learn more about homelessness at smaller levels of geography, i.e. small northern cities or towns.
- ❖ Hidden homelessness
- ❖ Patterns and causes of homelessness/migration
- ❖ Profile findings to government





Homelessness Individual and Families Information System (HIFIS)



How Do We Collect Information and Data?

Jessica Egginton, Partnership Analyst,
Human Resources and Skills Development Canada



- An enhancement of the HPS in 2011-2014 is to strengthen accountability through improved data collection and sharing.
- The Homelessness Partnering Secretariat works with service providers, municipalities, provinces and territories to improve and increase shelter data collection from across Canada.
- Achieving a more complete and accurate estimate of the number of emergency shelter users will improve the picture of homelessness across Canada.

Improved Data Collection through HIFIS

- HIFIS is a user friendly software which assists
 - Service providers with daily operations
 - Organizations, municipalities, and others in data collection, analysis and reporting
 - Long-term planning and capacity building
- HIFIS has been evolving based on user feedback since 1995. HPS provides training, software and technical support to service providers.

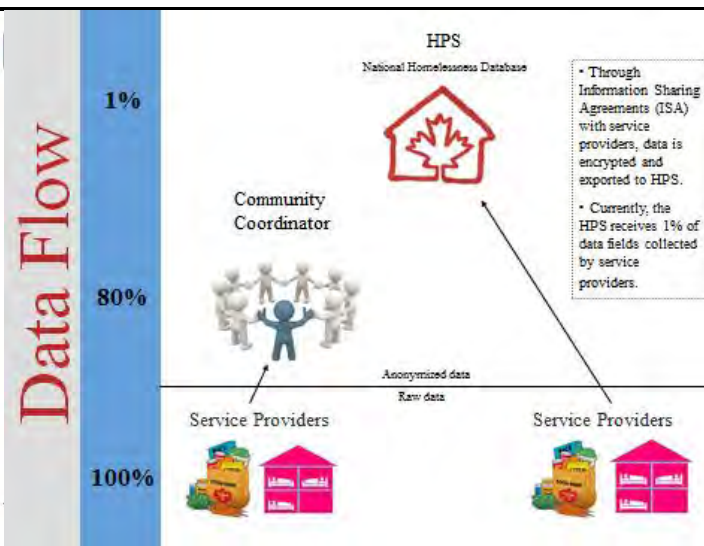
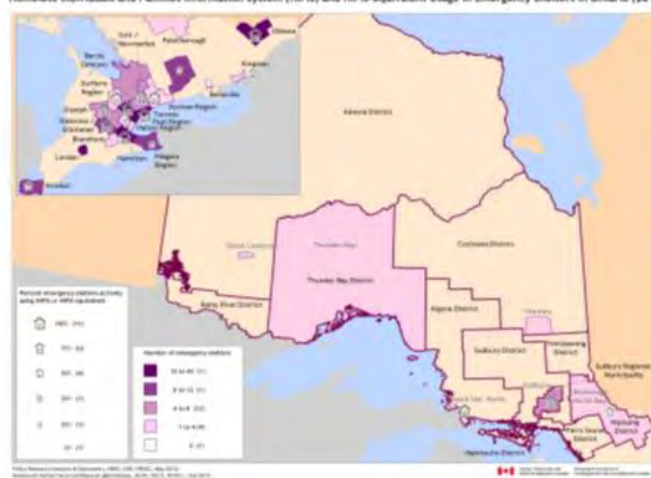
Role of HP Secretariat in HIFIS

- The Homelessness Partnering Secretariat provides, training, software and technical assistance to support the use of HIFIS.
- Federal resources dedicated to HIFIS focus on:
 - Software Development: improving software, increasing its usability and aiding users in tailoring fields and reports to their needs
 - Support: providing a national help desk, E-learning tools, virtual training and online materials.
 - Partnership: providing training and promotion to individual shelters and municipalities.
 - Analysis: conducting analysis from data collected to build a national picture of homelessness

HIFIS 3.8: tracking capabilities

Service Providers	Activities	Clients
Bulletins Referrals Funding Programs Shelter Layout Food Banks Hunger Count People/Contacts Standard Lookups Mandatory Fields Funders Community Capacity Building Housing Units Messaging Projects Ports of Entry	Stays Turnaways Goods & Services Call & Visit Log Reservations Barred Chores Housing Placement Case Management Medication Dispensing Food Banks Rent Subsidies Express Lane Waiting Lists Incidents Storage Outreach	Health Identification Financials Diets Conflicts Contributing Factors Questionnaires Life Events Behavioural Risk Factors Risk of Homelessness Legal/Probations Veterans Education/Schools Documents Vehicles Refugees

Homeless Individuals and Families Information System (HIFIS) and HIFIS-equivalent Usage in Emergency Shelters in Ontario (2011)



HIFIS Benefits and Challenges

Benefits

- ✦ Free of charge
- ✦ Digital Inclusion program
- ✦ Community wide data
- ✦ Data coordination and analysis
 - ✦ Secure funding, advocacy and functioning
- ✦ Local → Northern Ontario
→ National
- ✦ More than shelters
- ✦ Emergency management

Challenges

- ✦ Resources
 - ✦ Implementation
 - ✦ Data coordination and analysis
- ✦ Community buy-in
 - ✦ Individual service providers
 - ✦ Integration between service providers
- ✦ Interpretation



HIFIS in Nipissing/ North Bay

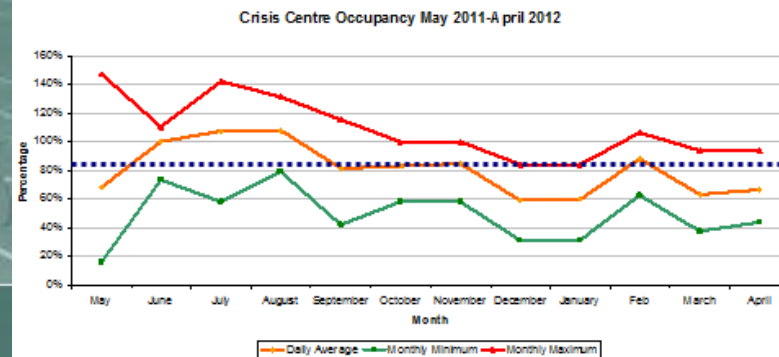


Emma Langdon, Data Coordinator,
District of Nipissing Social Services Administration Board

HIFIS in Nipissing/North Bay

- ✦ Nipissing/North Bay began using HIFIS at a service provider and shelter in April 2011
- ✦ Second service provider will be using HIFIS by the end of June 2012

Occupancy Rate: Average, Maximum and Minimum North Bay Crisis Centre 4 Elms Residence



Men's...2011, continued

- The average length of stay for men was 9.7 days. Nearly 69% of men only used the shelter one time in 2011.
- The most common factors underlying an individual's immediate need for services were: mental health issues, family / relationship breakdown, substance use, financial crisis, transient lifestyle, and unemployment (from Age & Gender Statistics Report in HIFIS).

Extracting Statistics from HIFIS – Age & Gender Statistics Report

- Anonymous analysis of numerous client profile variables broken down by age categories and gender.
- Variables include: Aboriginal Indicator; Contributing Factors (to the client's main need for service) Geographical Region (where client came from prior to obtaining services); Reason for Service; Reason for Discharge; Source of Income; etc...
- Reporting period specified by user as is report type – Shelter 'Stays' or 'Goods & Services' provided.

Age & Gender...cont'd

Reasons for Service	0-17		18-24		25-34		35-44		45-54		55-64		65-67		Total	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Court Ordered out of Address	3	1													4	4
Self Ordered to Service	3														3	3
Discharge from Conviction/Jail	11		15		15		8		2		48				87	87
Discharge from Treatment - Medical	2		1		3		4		3		1		14		24	24
Discharge from Treatment - Other	3		8		4		7		2		13		13		33	33
Discharge from Treatment - Psychiatric	1		4		2		2				7		7		14	14

Report Information Automatically Extracted from Client Profiles in HIFIS

Community Use of HIFIS Data in Greater Sudbury

- ✦ Annual Report Card on Homelessness and Emergency Shelter Use
 - ✦ Intended audience community
 - ✦ HIFIS data is presented in the 'community context'; i.e. alongside vacancy rates, services available, social housing info, etc.
- ✦ Informing Council members and stakeholders
 - ✦ Statistics generated 'on-the-spot', as needed
 - ✦ Purpose of funding and provision of 'top-up' dollars at the municipal level
- ✦ More in-depth analysis of homeless and hard-to-reach (new)
 - ✦ Community planning

HIFIS in Sault Ste. Marie



Gerry Grandinetti, Community Coordinator,
City of Sault Ste. Marie

Sam Henderson, HIFIS Community Trainer/Technical Support,
Sault Ste. Marie Innovation Centre

Sault Ste. Marie has Three Emergency Shelters Who All Use HIFIS

The Three Emergency Shelters include:

- ✦ Pauline's Place Youth Shelter
- ✦ St. Vincent Place Men's Shelter
- ✦ Algonquin Hotel

Some Facts Taken From HIFIS

Pauline's Place Youth Shelter

- ✦ Established in 2004
- ✦ Youth housed at shelter range in ages from 16-21, in the 12-bed home
- ✦ In 2011, 60 youth (38 males, 22 females), were housed at the shelter, amounting to 3,421 days in total
- ✦ Main reasons for assistance included Parental Conflict and CAS Placement
- ✦ Pauline's has recently opened a 5-Bed Transition Home for youth 18 years and older, who are either employed or continuing with their education

St. Vincent Place Men's Shelter

- ✦ Established in 2003
- ✦ For men aged 18 and over in the 24-bed facility
- ✦ In 2011, 303 adult males were housed at the shelter, amounting to 5,264 days in total
- ✦ Main reasons for assistance included: In Transit situation and Landlord dispute/eviction
- ✦ Vincent Place also has a Food Bank whereby HIFIS is also used for statistics
- ✦ The shelter also conducts a Soup Kitchen, twice a week

Algonquin Hotel

- ✦ Serves singles (16 yrs. +), couples and families, are housed within the 5 bed shelter allotment at the hotel
- ✦ In 2011, 158 individuals, amounting to 1,077 total days, were housed at the Algonquin
- ✦ Main reasons for assistance included In Transit situation or Landlord dispute/eviction

Sault Ste Marie Innovation Centre

- ✦ Not-for-profit organization that was created in 1999 to foster innovation and job growth in Sault Ste Marie
- ✦ In 2007 The Sault Ste Marie Social Services Department partnered with the Innovation Centre to provide technical support and training for HIFIS at the 3 emergency shelters
- ✦ I have been the trainer and local technical support for 5 years now.

HIFIS Data & GIS

- ✦ As a demonstration of some of the things you can do with HIFIS data I have created a simple map of our city's food bank users.
- ✦ The map shows Stats Canada Dissemination Areas (aka Neighbourhoods) coloured according to the number of clients in that neighbourhood who have utilized the food bank's services.



- ✦ HIFIS is continuing to develop enhancements that can aid all service providers
 - ✦ This includes enhancements for non-shelter and small providers and smaller communities
- ✦ HIFIS is one solution
- ✦ What will we learn if all of Northern Ontario collects, analyzes, reports and uses data and information in the same way?



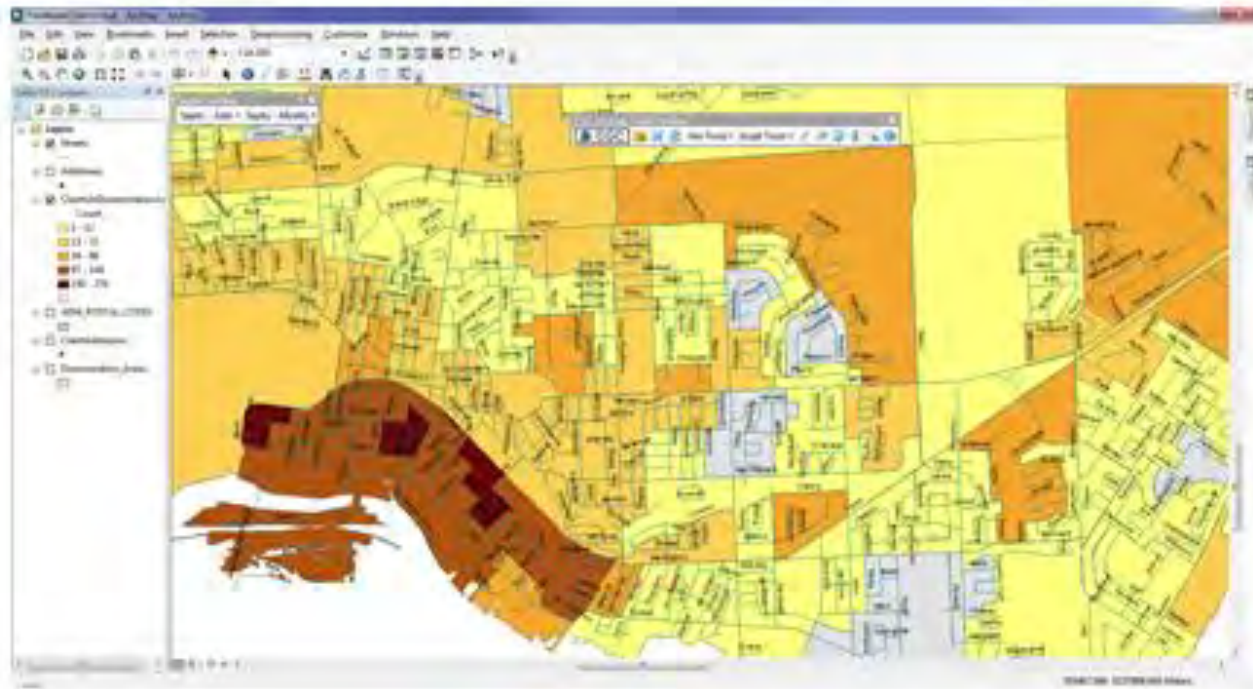
Future of Data Collection



The Future?

Questions?





Appendix E: Nipissing University Nursing Students' Presentation

Caring for Our Community

Presenters:

Kathy King, Sommer Abernathie, Siobhan Dugas, Amanda Guillemette, Kara Ribout, Kaitlin Twynstra



Approach Homelessness through a CHN Lens



Homelessness and Nursing

- Community Health Nursing program has partnered with the **Nipissing District Homelessness Partnership** since 2009 winter
- 1 clinical instructor (Registered Nurse) works with 4 students and an agency project advisor
 - 14 hours/week x 12 weeks
 - project the quality of a Community Health Nurse
 - when not working with the organization, students prepare their projects in simulated public health nursing offices at the university

Selection of Projects

- **Homelessness Partnership** identifies potential projects
- An **agency/organization** from the partnership takes on the **role of project advisor**
 - Eg. LIPI or CMHA
- Students attend Homelessness Partnership meetings so that they have a sense of the issues at a community level and can see where their project fits into the 'bigger plan'

- Projects related to **social determinants** of health that can affect homelessness are shared with the appropriate No Wrong Door partner(s)
 - Best Start Health Fairs for vulnerable families
 - Indian Friendship Centre
 - Literacy
 - Salvation Army

Projects



Interprofessional Collaboration



No Wrong Door		INTAKE FORM	
Today's Date: _____		Intake Done By: _____	
Start Date: _____		Finish Date: _____	
PERSONAL			
Client's LIPI number: _____		INDEX: <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	
Sex: <input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> F	Birth date: _____	Age: _____	Marital Status: <input type="checkbox"/> Single <input type="checkbox"/> Married <input type="checkbox"/> Divorced <input type="checkbox"/> Widowed <input type="checkbox"/> Common Law
Ethnicity: _____		Aboriginal: <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	
Disability: _____		Status: <input type="checkbox"/> Full <input type="checkbox"/> Part <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Home address: _____		Language: <input type="checkbox"/> English <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____	
City: _____		Province: _____ Postal Code: _____	
Home Phone Number: _____		Alternate Phone Number: _____	
OTHER INDIVIDUALS AFFECTED IN HOUSEHOLD			
Are they <input type="checkbox"/> immediate <input type="checkbox"/> at risk for homelessness?		Are they <input type="checkbox"/> immediate <input type="checkbox"/> at risk for homelessness?	
Name: _____	Relationship: _____	Gender: <input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> F	Age: _____
_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> F	_____
_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> F	_____
_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> F	_____
_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> F	_____
INCOME			
<input type="checkbox"/> Social	<input type="checkbox"/> EI	<input type="checkbox"/> OAS	<input type="checkbox"/> OAS
<input type="checkbox"/> CPP	<input type="checkbox"/> RRSP	<input type="checkbox"/> OAS	<input type="checkbox"/> OAS
<input type="checkbox"/> OAS	<input type="checkbox"/> RRSP	<input type="checkbox"/> OAS	<input type="checkbox"/> OAS
<input type="checkbox"/> OAS	<input type="checkbox"/> RRSP	<input type="checkbox"/> OAS	<input type="checkbox"/> OAS
Primary Source of Income: _____			
COMMUNITY RESOURCES			
Agency/Program	Involved	Referral	Contact Name
ACT 1 & 2 (Additive Community Treatment Teams)			
OAS (Children's Aid Society)			
CCAC (Community Care Access Centre)			
CHWA (Canadian Mental Health Association)			

Too Much Stuff

Homelessness Partnership Poster Fall 2011

<p>Goal: Help develop a Hoarding Coalition</p> <p>To address the issue in the Homelessness Partnership, 2 Homelessness Partnership & Hoarding Coalition members of the Homeless Partnership will be working on a goal to help develop a hoarding coalition.</p>		<p>Accomplishments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop a coalition of community groups to help address the issue of hoarding in the Homelessness Partnership. 2. Develop a coalition of community groups to help address the issue of hoarding in the Homelessness Partnership. 3. Develop a coalition of community groups to help address the issue of hoarding in the Homelessness Partnership.
		<p>Accomplishments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop a coalition of community groups to help address the issue of hoarding in the Homelessness Partnership. 2. Develop a coalition of community groups to help address the issue of hoarding in the Homelessness Partnership. 3. Develop a coalition of community groups to help address the issue of hoarding in the Homelessness Partnership.
<p>Project Outcomes:</p> <p>Our team is able to bring together community partners to help address the ongoing issue of individuals living with hoarding in the Homelessness Partnership.</p> <p>Additionally, our group was able to help develop a coalition of community groups to help address the issue of hoarding in the Homelessness Partnership.</p> <p>To learn more about the Homelessness Partnership, please visit our website at www.homelessnesspartnership.org.</p>	<p>Project Outcomes:</p> <p>Our team is able to bring together community partners to help address the ongoing issue of individuals living with hoarding in the Homelessness Partnership.</p> <p>Additionally, our group was able to help develop a coalition of community groups to help address the issue of hoarding in the Homelessness Partnership.</p> <p>To learn more about the Homelessness Partnership, please visit our website at www.homelessnesspartnership.org.</p>	<p>Accomplishments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop a coalition of community groups to help address the issue of hoarding in the Homelessness Partnership. 2. Develop a coalition of community groups to help address the issue of hoarding in the Homelessness Partnership. 3. Develop a coalition of community groups to help address the issue of hoarding in the Homelessness Partnership.

Photo credit: David Hooper

TOO MUCH



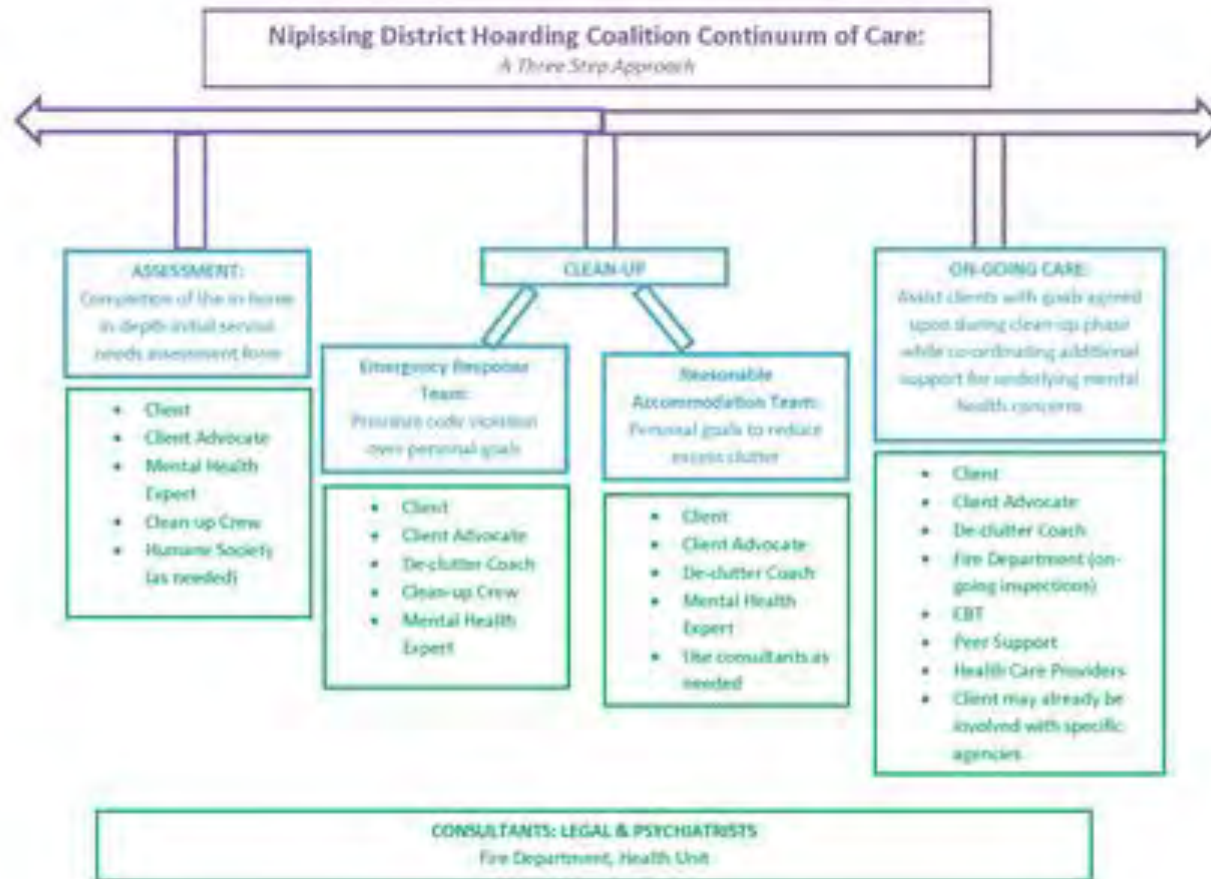
STUFF

Homelessness Partnership - Hoarding Coalition

Community Nursing Groups & Populations - N3027

Fall 2011

Kylie Deschenes,
Amanda Guillemette,
Jenna Huard,
Kara Ribout





Homelessness Team

Low Income People Involvement of Nipissing

Suzanne Abernethy, Stephen Dugas, Sarah Jones, & Kaitlin Twynstra
Nipissing University



What is LIPI?

Low Income People Involvement (LIPI) is a process of consultation. It is a way for people who are experiencing homelessness to be involved in the development of services. LIPI is a process of consultation. It is a way for people who are experiencing homelessness to be involved in the development of services. LIPI is a process of consultation. It is a way for people who are experiencing homelessness to be involved in the development of services.

LIPI's Mission Statement

"The Homelessness Team is committed to providing support and services to people who are experiencing homelessness."



Active Statement

"We are committed to providing support and services to people who are experiencing homelessness."

Project Goal

"To provide support and services to people who are experiencing homelessness."



Task Developed

"To provide support and services to people who are experiencing homelessness."



Summary of Project

"The Homelessness Team is committed to providing support and services to people who are experiencing homelessness."

Project Outcome

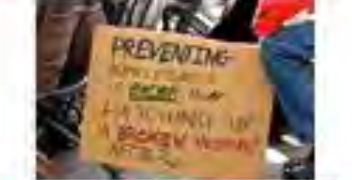
"To provide support and services to people who are experiencing homelessness."

Recommendations

"To provide support and services to people who are experiencing homelessness."

Acknowledgements

"To provide support and services to people who are experiencing homelessness."



References

"To provide support and services to people who are experiencing homelessness."

Acknowledgments

- Nipissing District Homelessness Partnership
- LIPI
- CMHA
- North Bay Crisis Center
- All No Wrong Door partners
- Clinical Instructors
- Community Health Nursing students

Questions/Comments



Appendix F: OFIFC Presentation

OFIFC Homelessness Partnering Strategy (HPS)

Voices in the Wilderness – Pan Northern Ontario
Homelessness Summit
June 13, 2012

OFIFC Background

- ▶ Ontario Federation of Indian Friendship Centres is a provincial Aboriginal organization representing the collective interests of 29 member Friendship Centre communities across Ontario
- ▶ Mandate: “to improve the quality of life for Aboriginal people living in an urban environment by supporting self-determined activities which encourage equal access to and participation in Canadian society and which respects Aboriginal cultural distinctiveness”

Friendship Centres

- ▶ There are 29 Friendship Centres across the province, 16 of which are located in Northern Ontario.
- ▶ Friendship Centres are culture-based organisations, providing programs and services for urban Aboriginal people throughout the lifecycle.
- ▶ Take a wrap-around/wholistic approach to service delivery.
- ▶ Program areas include Justice, Health, Healing and Wellness, Employment and Training, Children and Youth, Homelessness, Education, etc.

OFIFC HPS History

- ▶ OFIFC Community Entity (CE) for HPS since 1999 under the National Homelessness Initiative, HPS replaced NHI in 2007 to date
- ▶ OFIFC currently CE for three separate HPS agreements:
 - **8 Communities:** includes; Brantford, Midland, SSM, Cochrane, Moosonee, Niagara, Sudbury, Fort Frances
 - **Ottawa Aboriginal:** five different projects within Ottawa area (Odawa NFC, Aboriginal Youth Non-Profit Housing, Wabano Centre for Aboriginal Health, Tungasuwingat Inuit, Minwaashin Lodge)
 - **Thunder Bay Aboriginal :** Nihdawin - Ontario Native Women's Association.

Cochrane

- ▶ Ininew Friendship Centre – Ga Beh Shoo In Men's Shelter
- ▶ 6 bed shelter for Aboriginal men (18 yrs & older)
- ▶ Located beside the Ininew Friendship Centre, residents have access to other FC programs & services such as: employment & training, family support program, courtworker program, healing & wellness program, health outreach and others
- ▶ 11/12: 120 men sheltered and received support services; 69 moved along the housing continuum, 22 assisted with discharge planning
- ▶ Shelter Steering Committee meets monthly and brings together different organizations in community

Fort Frances

- ▶ United Native Friendship Centre, Homeless Outreach Program
- ▶ Client outreach and service provision for Aboriginal homeless and those at risk of homelessness in FF
- ▶ Offers a food bank; advocacy & referrals; emergency discretionary fund (shelter, transportation, food, utilities, rent); drop-in; community kitchens
- ▶ Breakfast Buddies – partner with local school to provide breakfast to at-risk youth
- ▶ Kanawayhitowin committee est. to address VAAW
- ▶ 11/12: 49 ppl/families assisted with housing prevention supports; 202 assisted with urgent need supports; over 3000 meals served

Sudbury

- ▶ N'Swakamok Native Friendship Centre, Aboriginal Homelessness & Housing Support Program
- ▶ Provide advocacy; intervention support; referrals, workshops, supportive counseling
- ▶ Partnership with City of Greater Sudbury Homelessness Network added a third worker to the program (2 wrkrs outreach & basic needs, 1 wrkr stabilizes to maintain housing)
- ▶ 11/12: 67 people assisted with transition to housing stability, 32 maintained housing for 3 mnths; 49 assisted with housing stability; 178 assisted with other support services

Sault Ste. Marie

- ▶ Indian Friendship Centre, Urban Aboriginal Homelessness Initiative
- ▶ Provides: weekly drop-in, lunch & learns, furniture bank, food bank, discretionary fund, advocacy and housing supports
- ▶ Program has established partnerships with local hotels, furniture & appliance stores, recycling companies which has built the furniture bank and assisted clients moving into new homes
- ▶ Kizhaay Anishinaabe Niin: going into correction institutes and schools
- ▶ 11/12: 97 assisted with housing loss prevention, 71% maintained housing; 7,950 assisted with urgent needs

Moosonee

- ▶ Moosonee Native Friendship Centre, Homelessness Initiatives Program
- ▶ Provides twice weekly soup kitchen, food bank, drop-in, emergency discretionary funds, life skills, counseling, housing supports
- ▶ Awarded funding from the HPS Rural & Remote funding stream to enhance programming with a youth Independent Living Skills project & Prevention Rent & Energy Support Bank
- ▶ 11/12: 14 ppl went from hidden homeless to regular housing; 94 assisted with prevention services, 320 with urgent need supports, over 3000 meals served

Thunder Bay

- ▶ Ontario Native Women's Association, Nihdawin project
- ▶ Assists Aboriginal women & their families who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.
- ▶ Provides housing support, advocacy with schools, child welfare, medical organizations and social services, mobile outreach and food provision
- ▶ 11/12: 134 assisted prevention services, 102 homeless individuals assisted with supports, 67% of those assisted with housing loss prevention maintained their housing after 3 months

Challenges

- ▶ Racism and Discrimination
- ▶ Lack of cultural awareness/cultural competency
- ▶ Responsibility for Aboriginal people often falls solely to Friendship Centres even though mainstream services may also be needed.
- ▶ Need more resources to support existing programs and expansion to meet the needs of the community.
- ▶ Aboriginal people are disproportionately over-represented in the homeless population, however funding does not reflect this.

Moving Forward

- ▶ Need more sustained engagement
- Aboriginal people need to be involved in the housing and homelessness plans, social and community planning.
- ▶ Partnership development, outreach to the Aboriginal community
 - ▶ Recognition of the value and purpose of Friendship Centres
 - ▶ Cultural Awareness/Cultural Competency for non-Aboriginal organisations
 - ▶ Invest in capacity building within Friendship Centres

District of Cochrane	Ininew Friendship Centre (Cochrane) Kapuskasing Native Friendship Centre Moosonee Native Friendship Centre Timmins Native Friendship Centre
District of Nipissing City of North Bay	North Bay Indian Friendship Centre
District of Parry Sound	Parry Sound Friendship Centre
District of Sault. Ste. Marie	Indian Friendship Centre (Sault Ste. Marie)
District of Kenora	Dryden Native Friendship Centre Ne'Chee Friendship Centre (Kenora) Red Lake Indian Friendship Centre Nishnawbe-Gamik Friendship Centre (Sioux Lookout)
City of Sudbury	N'Swakamok Native Friendship Centre (Sudbury)
District of Thunder Bay (City of Thunder Bay)	Thunder Bay Indian Friendship Centre Thunderbird Native Friendship Centre (Geraldton)
District of Rainy River	Atikokan Native Friendship Centre United Native Friendship Centre (Fort Frances)

Nya:weh | Miigwetch

For more information on Friendship Centres please feel free to visit our website at:

» www.ofifc.org

Appendix G: Peter Ferris' Presentation

Aboriginal Homelessness

6 Thoughts

Thought # 1

Stereotypes, racism and discrimination continue to be barriers for Aboriginal people seeking to find suitable housing.

We don't rent to people like you
The unit is already rented

Solution:

- ✓ More Native housing
- ✓ Increased cultural awareness education

Thought # 2

Aboriginal people may feel intimidated in dealing with other agencies whose methods and approaches are experienced as judgmental, intrusive and confusing.

This may cause some Aboriginal people to withdraw or to have difficulty expressing themselves or making their needs known. It may also happen that non-Aboriginal service providers disengage before a solution is found.

Thought # 3

We also find that Aboriginal people are sometimes referred to the Friendship Centre without receiving the assistance they need from other agencies. Our Friendship Centre is then placed in the position of having to provide emergency financial assistance for transportation, food, shelter and other needs.

When the Friendship Centre this assistance is provided we must take it out of our core budget which hasn't seen an increase in 16 years or from program funds that are meant for meeting the needs of clients registered in those programs.

Solution:

- ✓ Increased engagement with community partners
- ✓ Increased community awareness of mandate and services of Friendship Centre

Thought # 4

Few culturally sensitive housing options are available to Aboriginal transitional age youth or to single Aboriginal men (e.g.; when they are leaving Jail).

Solutions:

- ✓ Possible need for Independent Living Program for transitional age Aboriginal youth
- ✓ Homeless Shelter for Aboriginal men

Thought # 5

An earlier presentation discussed some of the social determinants of health and homelessness. And in the HIFAS tool, we saw that information is collected about the immediate causes of homelessness.

Homeless among Aboriginal people must be understood in a cultural and historical context and not merely from the perspective of social determinants. Aboriginal people continue to struggle with the legacy of residential schools and the 60's scoop that left them dispossessed of their language, culture, families, community and identity. These traumatic experiences have produced intergenerational trauma, family and community dysfunction, high rates of suicide, physical and sexual abuse, substance abuse, and other consequences.

An understanding of these connections is important because it suggests the need for housing solutions that are designed and delivered by Aboriginal people. Research has shown that this is the approach that works best.

Reference

"Cultural Continuity as a Moderator of Suicide Risk among Canada's First Nations" by Michael J. Chandler and Christopher E. Lalonde. In *The Mental Health of Canadian Aboriginal Peoples: Transformations, Identity, and Community*, ed. L. Kirmayer and G. Valaskakis. Vancouver: University of British Columbia Press (forthcoming). Available electronically in preprint form at <http://www.ccmr.ca/firstnations/CCMTTransformations.pdf>

Thought # 6

Housing solutions should allow extended Aboriginal families to cohabitate or live in close proximity so that children and parents have the support of grandparents.

Appendix H: Homelessness Summit Networking Contact List

This contact list is to facilitate interaction between participants who were invited to and/or attended NOSDA's Pan Northern Ontario Homelessness Summit held on June 12 and 13th at Nipissing Univeristy in North Bay Ontario.

ALGOMA

NAME	ORGANIZATION	EMAIL ADDRESS	PHONE NUMBER	MAILING ADDRESS
Amanda Biocchi	Algoma Public Health Inc.	abiocchi@algomapublichealth.com	(705) 942-4646 Ext. 3154	294 Willow Ave. Sault Ste. Marie, ON P6B 0A9
Tracey Brick	Algoma District Services Administration Board, Ontario Works	tbrick@adsab.on.ca	(705) 842-3370 Ext. 240	1 Colliver Rd. Thessalon, ON P0R 1L0
Kim Currie	Algoma Public Health Inc.	kcurrie@algomapublichealth.com	(705) 759-3935	294 Willow Ave. Sault Ste. Marie, ON P6B 0A9
Norma Elliot	Women In Crisis Algoma Inc.	wic1@shaw.ca	(705) 759-1230	23 Oakland Ave. Sault Ste. Marie, ON P6A 2T2
Debbie Mills	Algoma District Services Administration Board, Housing Services	dmills@adsab.on.ca	(705) 842-3370 Ext. 260	1 Colliver Rd. Thessalon, ON P0R 1L0

ALGOMA (CONT.)

Ron and Lucille Nadon	Elliot Lake Men's Support Centre	rebelron78@hotmail.com	(705) 848-9514	65 Bennett Dr. Elliot Lake, ON P5A 2T5
Karol Osmond	Maplegate House for Women	elwgtran@persona.ca	(705) 461-9868	185 Mississauga Ave. Elliot Lake, ON P5A 1E3
Cheryl Robinson	Algoma Public Health Inc.	crobinson@algomapublichealth.com	(705) 759-3935	294 Willow Ave. Sault Ste. Marie, ON P6B 0A9
Melody Rose	Maplegate House for Women	elwgacc@persona.ca	(705) 461-9868	185 Mississauga Ave. Elliot Lake, ON P5A 1E3
Paula Valois	Chadwick Home	paula@chadwick.com	(705) 856-2848	23 Algoma St. Wawa, ON P0S 1K0

COCHRANE

NAME	ORGANIZATION	EMAIL ADDRESS	PHONE NUMBER	MAILING ADDRESS
Michael Chamandy	Co-Tem Pro Native Housing	mmc2@ontera.net	(800) 234-6614	112 Seventh Ave. P.O. Box 2635 Cochrane, ON POL 1C0
Andrea Griener	Clearlogic Consulting Professionals	agriener@clearlogic.ca	(705) 465-6544	202-670 Airport Rd. Timmins, ON P4P 1J2
Christine Landers	Cochrane District Social Services Administration Board, Ontario Works	Christine@cdssab.on.ca	(705) 266-1206	500 Algonquin Blvd. E. Timmins, ON P4N 1B7
Christine Leclair	Leclair Planning Consultancy	leclair@planningconsultancy.ca	(705) 365-6850	143 Majestic Dr. Timmins, ON P4R 1N6
Ron Leduc	Clearlogic Consulting Professionals	rleduc@clearlogic.ca	(705) 266-3944	202-670 Airport Rd. Timmins, ON P4P 1J2
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COCHRANE (CONT.)

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