



Community Safety and Well-Being Plan ~ Annual Update

In April 2021, the Community Safety and Well-Being Plan (The Plan) was adopted by City Council with the goal of achieving a sustainable community where everyone feels safe and has a sense of belonging. The Plan formalizes and builds upon the strong history of collaboration in Timmins. It also documents and builds upon the successful initiatives that are already improving safety and enhancing the well-being of residents of Timmins.

The Plan has now been in place for one working year and progress has been made on many of the strategic priorities, as well as the overall framework required to ensure efficiency, effectiveness and sustainability of service providers in Timmins. The Systems Leadership committee is responsible for overseeing the Plan and the Action Tables associated with each strategic priority. Inventory of agencies and committees is ongoing, along with community initiatives that are associated with The Plan. Strategies are being implemented that are preventative, as opposed to reactive, and focused on helping residents navigate the system of service providers. This support of integrated and streamlined services will result in improved outcomes and an efficient use of resources.

Committees that have similar goals, key commitments, and overlapping objectives have been and continue to be integrated to share resources. Individuals from agencies have been added to different Action Tables where their expertise was missing. For example, Timmins Police Service has recently joined the Equity and Diversity Table; Youth Wellness Hub and Kunuwanimano have been invited to the Early Years Committee; and, Cochrane District Social Services Administration Board (CDSSAB) Child Care is a new member of the Moving on Mental Health Partner Planning Table led by NEOFACS.

Strategic Priority #1 – Homelessness

In partnership with CDSSAB, Living Space is working towards implementing a new program called the Homeless Individuals and Families Information System (HIFIS) that will measure the number of people on the street and in shelters, including their length of stay. This was identified as a targeted outcome one year ago and the working group is actively meeting their goals. The program will allow service providers to access real-time data and avoid repetition.



Agencies continue to explore opportunities to further increase outreach services to meet service gaps. Living Space, Mushkegowuk Council Firekeepers, Timmins Police, and Porcupine Health Unit are working in collaboration and mitigating outreach duplication.

CDSSAB Ontario Works staff and housing staff are trained in making referrals to a By-Names List (BNL). A BNL is a real-time, person specific list of all people known to be experiencing homelessness in the Timmins area. CDSSAB is encouraging agencies to invest in BNL to better serve clients and has developed a strategy on how to deliver and implement BNL training. BNL will improve communication sharing between service partners and improve understanding of how homelessness impacts multiple systems in the community.

CDSSAB has also been designated the “Community Entity” for the Reaching Home community-based program. They are responsible for managing Reaching Home funds and will play a leadership role in the implementation of Housing First in Timmins. The program’s overall goal is to develop local solutions to homelessness to meet Canada’s National Housing Strategy and achieve safe and affordable housing for the community’s most vulnerable. Work will be focused on building a connection between Living Space operations and potential housing solutions to guide decisions and focus on sustainable solutions to homelessness.

Strategic Priority #2 - Addiction and Mental Health

Work on this strategic priority has been focused on collaboration and partnership. Since the implementation of the CSWBP, the Addiction Management Crisis Team (AMCT) and South Cochrane Addiction Services (SCAS) have teamed up to streamline referral processes for patients. Cochrane Mental Health Association (CMHA) is also working to address the correlation between mental illness and substance abuse by coordinating patient care to provide greater access to external service providers. In addition, CMHA and SCAS are in the process of merging. The integration of addiction and mental health services will further address the dual challenges of mental health and addictions by eliminating boundaries between service providers.

The Timmins and District Hospital’s (TADH) Addiction and Mental Health committees are now working together, which means that the Withdrawal Management Mobile Crisis, Safe Beds and Rapid Access Addiction Medicine (RAAM) are no longer acting as separate programs. By working together, the programs avoid duplication, improve access, and improve quality of care. TADH has also formed a collaboration with a



Community Peer Support program. This confidential resource offers outreach and support to individuals with mental health concerns.

The Government of Ontario has expanded Mental Health and Addiction Services in Timmins by providing funding to assist individuals in accessing specialized addictions treatment at both the Jubilee Centre and TADH.

Safe Health Site Timmins (SHST) opened on July 4, 2022 with the goal of reducing opioid poisonings and overdose deaths in the community. Presentations on the benefits of an Urgent Public Health Needs Site (UPHNS) were made to Downtown BIA members, frontline workers, Timmins Chamber of Commerce, Timmins City Council, and various Indigenous groups and organizations. A Consumption Treatment Service (CTS) application process is also underway with the recent completion of a needs assessment and feasibility study for a permanent site in Timmins. There are many steps to complete prior to opening a permanent site, including site location and operations management. Sourcing provincial funding and completing the federal application (Controlled Substance Exemption) are next. The Timmins and Area Drug Strategy (TADS) committee will be working on a communication strategy to provide updates of CTS milestones to the public.

TADS is also working to engage people with lived experience navigating service systems related to mental health and substance abuse. Earlier this year, the People with Lived Experience (PWLE) action group was initiated. The goal of the group is to increase the representation and active involvement of persons with lived experience, as their expertise and guidance is invaluable in providing community support. TADS members representing over 25 agencies have also begun planning for recognition of International Overdose Awareness Day (IOAD) in Timmins. IOAD is the world's largest annual campaign to end overdose, remember those who have died, and acknowledge the grief of friends and family. IOAD takes place August 31, 2022.

Strategic Priority #3 - Youth Engagement

Much of the work on youth engagement over the past year has been successfully carried out by the Youth Wellness Hub (YWH). YWH will be opening a permanent centre this fall as a place where youth can gather and find support.



NEOFACS continues work on the Moving on Mental Health Partner Planning Table, which brings together local and regional agencies associated with youth across the Cochrane-Timiskaming area. The committee is currently working on transition planning so that there is less confusion in navigating health services for transitional aged youth between the ages of 16 and 24 who are moving from foster care.

Strategic Priority #4 - Overall Safety and Well-Being

The Community Mobilization Steering Action Table is responsible for working towards the targeted outcomes that relate to the community's overall safety and well-being. One way that the strategic priority is being met is by promoting inclusion, accessibility, and increasing awareness about the broad range of services and supports available to help ensure a safe community. The Steering Action Table is further assisted by a subcommittee, or Situation Table, that meets once a week to discuss individuals facing an acute elevated risk of harm. The members of the table respond to situations before crisis occurs.

Safety is being addressed in the downtown core through a partnership between CMHA, Mushkegowuk Council, and the Downtown Timmins BIA that provides outreach programs specific to downtown Timmins. Earlier in the year, CMHA hired a full-time crisis outreach worker who coordinates crisis intervention for individuals at risk. An outreach team also does sweeps of the downtown area to pick up improperly discarded sharps (needles) and proactively engage with vulnerable persons.

In June, a collective cooking program resumed at Anti-Hunger Coalition Timmins (ACT) and achieved an enrollment rate of 80%. Named "Food Fit", the program targets people who are struggling to cook healthy food/meals on a tight budget.