



First Nations Mental Health Liaison Program

Strathcona Mental Health Team

Vancouver Community Mental health Services

VCH



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First Nations Mental Health

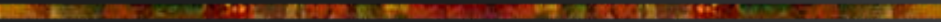
- The overall purpose of this program is to bridge the gap between the native community and mainstream mental health services.
 - As a first priority, to the seriously mentally ill residents of the Vancouver area .
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This program offers services in four main areas


- Education
 - Consultation
 - Service brokerage
 - Direct clinical services
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Education Activities

- First Nations community
 - First Nations front line workers
 - Staff of mental health services and other mainstream services
 - Services providers in areas such as education, welfare, corrections, community forms.
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the content and format of these educational and training activities may vary considerably depending on the audience. Content may include a broad range of topics including mental illness, stigma, treatment alternatives {traditional and non-traditional}, promoting spirituality and other cultural beliefs such as wellness, consumer-oriented information on how to access services, and issues related to cross-cultural services delivery.



Consultation

These activities are directed at human services providers who come in professional contact with seriously mentally ill members of the First Nations communities. This may include for example, clinicians of the Vancouver Community Mental Health Services or First nations frontline workers in mainstream human services agencies. Consultation may include cultural case consultation mental health consultation, or Consultation concerning needs and assessment or program development.

Service Brokerage or referrals

The first nations mental health worker may become as involved as necessary to ensure that mentally clients from the target communities are linked up with a comprehensive set of coordinated services to meet their mental health and related service needs. They are also available to assist in coordinating a comprehensive service plan.

Direct clinical services

The First Nations Mental Health Liaison Worker, may be involved as co-therapist with existing clinical staff of the Vancouver Mental Health Services. a FNMH worker may, on rare occasions, become involved as the primary therapist for some mentally ill members of the First Nations population. Depending on availability, this worker may also be involved in community-base psychiatric emergencies. also be involved in the First Nations communities, or with hospital admission or discharge planning.

First Nations Mental Health Conference

The First Nations Mental Health Conference is an annual conference that has been very successful, we have had some very positive feedback for the participants , some of the guest speakers have been Dr Martin Broken leg, Gene Harry, and Lorna Howe's, as well as some good solid information, on issue such as wellness, suicide, depression, meditation, as well as some research projects. We have support from Vancouver aboriginal friendship center. The Aboriginal wellness program. This conference is held in the fall, mark your calendars.

Talking circle for mental health

This first nations mental health talking circle has been going for the last 8 years, this is an opportunity for native clients to come a group that is just for them, it is a safe place for clients to come and feel that there are making the guide lines and setting up the group, there is no swearing, no making other clients feel not wanted, this group is co-hosted by Strathcona rehab department ,this group is co-facilitated by a female {Cyndi Dalow } who is a rec therapist, this group runs for 4 to 6 months. there is smudging before the group and a light lunch afterwards.
