



Supporting organizations working to improve health outcomes and housing supports for Calgarians experiencing chronic homelessness.

INTRODUCTION

Collaborative work can be difficult to measure due to its emergent nature, but the accomplishments of an entire group are impossible to ignore. Here are some of the more recent and spectacular highlights of what this community has achieved and what we will be working on next. We look forward to providing you a quarterly update to continue celebrating the work.

PERINATAL SUBSTANCE USE SYMPOSIUM

This day offered expert talks and open discussion about perinatal substance use as well as an opportunity for networking amongst hospital-based care providers and community agencies working with pregnant women with substance use disorders across Calgary. With nearly 180 attendees representing more than 40 organizations and services, this day was filled with a lot of learning and collaborating. Highlights noted by attendees included Keynote Speaker Dr. Ron Abrahams from Vancouver and those sharing their lived experience.

WOMEN AND CHILDREN'S EXPERIENCE IN HOMELESSNESS

Women and children experience many risk and protective factors affecting their entry into and experiences in homelessness. As such, they may require unique interventions to promote sustainable exits from homelessness and to address negative outcomes associated with homelessness. In pursuit of their mission to affect multi-sectoral change and system transformation to achieve better health and housing outcomes for homeless individuals in Calgary, the Collaborative for Health and Home has conducted a literature review to investigate the lifetime risk and protective factors affecting women and children experiencing homelessness as well as interventions that can promote exits from homelessness. Both documents are in their final stages and will be shared in the next couple of months.

ELDERS REPORT

The Aboriginal Standing Committee on Housing and Homelessness (ASCHH) along with Collaborative for Health and Home (CHH) are collaborating in the Indigenous Health, Housing and Homelessness Collaborative (IHHC) working group and have been working over the past few years to commence the development of Indigenous Housing Program models and Indigenous Case Management best practices. IHHC's work includes a literature review of Indigenous Housing and Case Management work conducted over the past 20+ years, a national Indigenous housing program scan, as well as a review of the Canadian Accreditation Council's Indigenous designation of case management standards. Additionally we conducted six engagement circles with Elders throughout 2018 and 2019. These circles were instrumental in building a strong foundation of wisdom and knowledge to understand further direction for these projects. We hope that people use this document to learn and apply these learnings in their programs to enhance their services for clients.



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CURRENT PROJECTS

Through March 2020 CHH will continue to focus its efforts on the following Strategic Priorities:

- ⇒ Consistent and appropriate community health and housing supports upon discharge from hospitals or jail for chronically homeless Calgarians to reduce recidivism of emergency services. This work is being done in partnership with Alberta Health Services, Calgary Police Services, and community organizations.
- ⇒ Robust and efficient shared planning approaches between community health and housing services regarding physical and mental health concerns for chronically homeless Calgarians. The Collaborative Services Delivery Cluster (CSDC) group is working towards creating a system where clients can easily have their immediate needs met by multiple organizations simultaneously through easier information sharing.
- ⇒ System-wide coordinated responses for lifespan healthcare for women, including during pregnancy, experiencing chronic homelessness through peer or professional navigation. Building off the work of the Perinatal Substance Use Symposium, the Women and Children Working group is set to move forward on new strategies.
- ⇒ Sufficient, low barrier resources for harm reduction initiatives that assist chronically homeless Calgarians who use substances. There is a continued focus on supporting Supervised Consumption Services (SCS) and Managed Alcohol Programs (MAP) through information sharing and capacity development.
- ⇒ Indigenous cultural practices which are embedded into all aspects of programming for Indigenous peoples with complex issues related to addiction and intergenerational trauma. CHH will continue to support ASCHH in identifying structures for culturally informed approaches to client services.

PEER NAVIGATOR SYMPOSIUM 2020

TELL US MORE!

We are currently exploring a symposium bringing together speakers representing in-hospital and community care provider's viewpoints on the value and need of peer navigators. The overall goal is to bring together in-hospital care providers and community agencies in hopes of improving the continuity of care for people struggling to navigate through the system in order to seek help for their mental health or addictions.

CHH's work cannot happen without the time that our stakeholders generously put into it and we wanted to thank everyone who gave us their time and shared their expertise. We need this to continue for our current projects and also to explore further opportunities for collaboration, so feel free to reach out to Quentin (quentins@calgaryhomeless.com) or Sara (saram@calgaryhomeless.com) at any time!

CURRENT PROJECTS

UPCOMING EVENT

MOVING FORWARD