

GPSC Workshop: Mental Health and Substance Use

On November 12, GPSC members, partners, and guests (including guests from the Ministry of Health and Addictions, [Foundry](#), UBC, BC Centre on Substance Use, First Nations Health Authority, JCC Co-Chairs and executive staff), participated in a workshop focusing on provincial mental health and opioid response initiatives. The workshop gave representatives from the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions in particular an opportunity to hear from primary care providers and partners about the challenges primary care providers face in meeting the needs of individuals with mental health and substance use issues.

One of the key themes that emerged from the discussion is the need for improved integration and communication between all providers involved in a patient's circle of care – consistent with the principle of longitudinal, continuous care that is fundamental to good primary care. It was recognized that one of the key ways to enable an integrated culture with improved communication is to align mental health and substance use services with broader provincial initiatives such as PMH, PCN and team-based care. One solution explored was the deployment of mental health teams in PMHs and PCNs, and through PMHs in communities who are not yet involved in a PCN. Additionally, attendees recognized that investments in virtual care are increasingly important since this avenue helps to address shortages in Health Human Resources across the province.

Further discussion is needed to determine how primary care for mental health and substance use links with other local community supports to provide comprehensive care.

Physician representatives also expressed the burden they face in terms of attempting to serve patients with mental health and substance use needs within the current fee for service model of remuneration in primary care.

The outcomes of this discussion will help guide the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions to make improvements to strategies and policies that better ensure effective integration of mental health and substance use services with primary care providers.

GPSC Workshop: Recruitment and Retention

On November 12, GPSC members, partners, and guests, including representatives from the GPSC Provincial Recruitment and Retention Steering Committee (PRRSC), participated in a workshop focused on recruitment and retention. Over the past several years the PRRSC has improved physician licensing and registration processes, shared marketing opportunities for Divisions, Health Authorities, and Health Match BC, developed the [PracticeinBC.ca](#) resource, and led the development of EMR tip sheets for locums.

The workshop focused on four key areas of recruitment and retention work from a strengths-based perspective, including: virtual care, physician contracts, COVID-19 issues and opportunities, and regional approaches. Within each focus area, attendees were asked to consider the overarching themes of team-based care, provider safety, cultural humility, and physician wellness.

A common theme was the need for a focused and intentional approach to connect with resident physicians. Members of the workshop have heard from those who have recently finished residency and are not aware of the

compensation options available to them, such as new to practice contracts. In addition, the idea of a process for new physicians who want to explore their career options through a variety of locums was discussed.

A report based on the information collected in the workshop will be developed, which will include a recommended recruitment and retention strategy for the GPSC. The GPSC expects to receive the report in December and will create an action plan based on the recommendations.

GPSC: Key Items and Decisions

GPSC Work Plan

The GPSC is currently developing the committee work plan for Fiscal Year 2021-22. Key priorities outlined in the new work plan include:

- Physician practice and clinical supports.
- Community networking and partnership supports.
- Governance, strategic decision making and system influence.

These initiatives will help enable family physicians to improve their practices and patient care, facilitate physician and division involvement in primary care transformation, and support the sustainment and advancement of longitudinal family medicine. Additionally, strategies to address physician wellness and cultural safety are included.

Practice Support Program and Nurse Practitioner partnerships

A shared strategic goal between the GPSC and Nurses and Nurse Practitioners of BC (NNPBC) is to increase access to quality primary care that effectively meets the needs of patients and populations in BC. The GPSC recognized the

opportunity to strengthen the partnership between the committee and the NNPBC by leveraging resources across organizations to benefit primary care practices.

Over the last year, NNPBC and GPSC staff have engaged in collaborative discussions to identify potential synergies and practice support partnership opportunities to limit silos, avoid duplication, and enhance services and supports to primary care providers and teams. To support this alignment, the Practice Support Program's (PSP) learning management system called "The Exchange" will be made available to Nurse Practitioners. The Exchange enables access to all practice support clinical and practice management content, tools and resources.

The goal is to improve knowledge exchange between the PSP coaches, enhance practice supports and peer mentors, and NNPBC's Nurse Practitioner Regional Leads. In alignment with this goal, Nurse Practitioners would be able to add their own best practice guides and resources to The Exchange. NNPBC will be funding the integration of Nurse Practitioners into The Exchange.

GPSC Core has approved this proposal and moving forward with NNPBC in partnership.

GPSC Evaluation Reports

In collaboration with Divisions, local evaluators, and community stakeholders across BC, the GPSC Evaluation team undertook case studies and evaluations to capture the experiences and lessons learned from local innovations to implement the PMH. The following four reports were created to share knowledge to improve the health system, support innovation that enhances and promotes an integrated health care system, adopt a collaborative approach to

further develop the PMH, and strengthen the capacity of the health care system.

- [Integrating nurses into practice](#)
- [Mission Oaks clinic – Converting to Population Based Funding](#)
- [Culturally Safe Team-based Care at the Snuneymuxw Health Centre](#)
- [What We Value: Stories of Most Significant Change](#)

JCC Inpatient Care Task Group MRP Workshop & Stakeholder Workshop

While not included in the GPSC agenda, the following is an update a recent meeting of JCC Inpatient Care task group held September 9. The workshop discussion explored ideas for a future provincial direction for inpatient care, with the goal of capturing the physician perspective. Approximately 35 physicians attended the event, representing a range of community and hospital settings.

The workshop was organized into three main sections including:

- Visioning: This section delved into what is needed for inpatient care and the perspective from the patient, team and MRP perspectives about why it's needed.
- Building toward tomorrow: This section identified some of the priority challenges working against the vision and explored what is most important to address now.
- Building a bridge to the next step: This section explored what physicians want to discuss with other stakeholders about making this happen.

Two key themes emerged: underscoring the importance of patient voice as a foundation for the vision and future of inpatient care, and building on the longitudinal relationship

between a patient and their family physician. There was consensus among attendees that longitudinal relationships are essential for a positive care experience for both patients and providers. A summary of the event is can be found [here](#).

On November 23, the task group hosted a broader stakeholder meeting, which included representatives from a number of organizations including the Ministry of Health, Health Authorities, Divisions of Family Practice, BC Family Doctors, JCC Co-Chairs, patients and other partner groups. The workshop provided an opportunity for all stakeholders to build collective understanding about the imperative to focus on inpatient care across the province, explore a future vision of inpatient care in BC, and identify priorities and commitments required in order to support an optimal future state.