

Chilliwack Healthier Community Strategic Action Plan 2018 – 2020



Connect, Contribute, Collaborate

Vision

To live in a healthy, caring community that focuses on quality of life, promotes a sense of belonging, and understands that dignity begins when basic needs are met.

Mission

To actively address the most persistent issues affecting the health and well-being of our community and its residents through public education, collaboration and service integration.

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

Chilliwack Healthier Community (CHC) is a network of local partners focused on affordable/accessible housing, mental health, addictions, poverty reduction and cultural safety and humility. Partners include government, community agencies, law enforcement and business.

The Chilliwack Healthier Community Strategic Action Planning project resulted as a 'next step' from a number of community consultation and planning initiatives undertaken between 2001 and 2009 aimed at addressing critical community social issues. The initiatives included:

- City of Chilliwack Downtown Social Issues Action Plan November 2001
- City of Chilliwack Downtown Neighbourhoods Strategic Plan January 2007
- The formation of the Chilliwack Social Issues Advisory Committee and the development of the Chilliwack Health and Social Development Network model (2008)
- The formation of the Healthier Community Partnership committee and the subsequent merging of the Healthier Community Partnership Committee with the Chilliwack Health and Social Development Network (2009)

Through these previous initiatives, the community expressed a clear desire to continue to collaborate by means of a community-wide strategic plan for Chilliwack.

Collaboration is the basic principle that guides the way CHC works. Fundamental to the success of the work is the adoption of the additional principles of respect and inclusivity: respect for work that had gone before, and for the input and insight of community stakeholders, and the inclusion of as many sectors of the stakeholder community as possible. A fourth principle – action – is critical to moving the work forward. These four principles form the framework of our approach.

Since 2010 the CHC partnership has been working to address our community's most complex health and social issues through active collaboration, completing two consecutive three-year Strategic Action Plans (SAP), 2011 and 2014. Through a series of consultation workshops with CHC partners through the spring of 2017, the goals and objectives of the 2018-2020 CHC SAP have been developed. For the next three years, teams will develop and implement projects that work to address these goals and objectives, using evidence-based best practices to contribute to a healthier community in Chilliwack.

DEFINITIONS

CHC Partner

CHC partners are organizations whose mandate aligns with the goals and objectives of the CHC SAP. Official CHC partner agencies designate representatives to act as information conduits between CHC and their organization. CHC Partner Representatives attend monthly partner meetings, and voting and formal motions may only be undertaken by partner representatives.

CHC Network Member

CHC network members are local health and social service professionals who subscribe to the CHC network distribution list. Members are unified in information sharing through weekly mail-outs and invitations to all CHC workshops, training sessions, forums and events.

Goal

The goals identified in the Plan define the key areas of focus for the work of the CHC partnership and its teams and collaborations for the 2018 – 2020 term.

Objective

Objectives are defined as concrete attainments that further the goal and that can be achieved by following a certain number of steps. The SMART criteria are used to guide the setting of the Plan's objectives, therefore care has been taken to ensure that each objective is: Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Result-based and Time-bound.

Structure

CHC operates using a constellation style of governance, whereby the core partners and several working groups provide high-level monitoring, oversight and mentoring to community satellite or constellation groups which act largely as self-directed implementation teams focused on fulfilling the goals and objectives of the CHC Strategic Action Plan. Each team is chaired by a CHC partner representative, but members of teams are CHC partners or CHC network members.

Organizational Plan

All CHC teams, committees and collaborations utilize an organizational plan to outline the purpose, overall intentions / aims, project description, group composition, key activities, timeframes, indicators of success, and the CHC SAP goals and objectives that the work addresses.

Evaluation

The indicators of success laid out in the organizational plans will be used within established logic models to evaluate progress on the goals and objectives on an annual basis.

Goals and Objectives

1) Increase the ability of CHC and partners to operate in a culturally safe way.

- A. Ensure a robust representation from all relevant stakeholders at the Opening Doors Task team
- B. Engage all partners in responding to the TRC Calls to Action
- C. Promote and implement Indigenous-led initiatives

2) Facilitate collaboration that will increase the stock of affordable housing in Chilliwack and reduce homelessness.

- A. Establish, promote and support a systems approach to housing in Chilliwack
- B. Facilitate an increase in available options for the precariously housed
- C. Promote, advocate, and support the development of Low Barrier Housing and Housing First initiatives in Chilliwack

3) Generate specific strategies to address poverty in Chilliwack based on contributing factors in the local context.

- A. Expand the availability of local information on poverty in Chilliwack
- B. Establish a poverty reduction plan for Chilliwack
- C. Implement local initiatives that reduce poverty

4) Reduce the impact of addictions in Chilliwack through creating supportive environments.

- A. Engage the community in addictions literacy and stigma reduction
- B. Support and promote partner and peer-led initiatives to address addictions
- C. Advocate for increasingly effective, appropriate and readily available services

5) Promote mental wellness across the lifespan in homes, schools and work places.

- A. Engage the community in mental health literacy and stigma reduction
- B. Increase community awareness of programs and services that address mental health and promote mental wellness
- C. Raise awareness of issues that impact relational health, and promote and support initiatives to combat said issues