



Interior Health

Every person matters

July 4, 2017

Ms. Lisa Lapointe
Chief Coroner
Province of British Columbia
Suite 800-4720 Kingsway
Burnaby BC V5H 4N2

Dear Ms. Lapointe:

Re: Case File: #2016-1027-004

In response to the recommendations issued as a result of an inquest into a death that occurred in Powell River, BC Interior Health provides the following response:

Recommendation #8: Consult with persons with lived experience with substance use dependency in policy and program development.

Interior Health Mental Health and Substance Use (MHSU) has a standardized process for Patient Partner Engagement in policy and program development. Patient Partner Engagement was highlighted in the most recent Update newsletter for MHSU. Refer to the following attachments for more information -

Attachment 1: Update 02 – June 2017

Attachment 2: Standardized Process for Patient Partner Engagement

Recommendation #9: Require all substance use treatment centres to educate clients with opioid use disorders about maintenance treatments, the risk of relapse, ensure the understanding of tolerance levels, training for the use of naloxone, and provision of naloxone kits upon discharge.

MHSU contracts with two providers for intensive residential treatment services. The content of recommendation 9 has been communicated to our contracted partners and assurance received that this is the practice.

Recommendation #10: Require all substance use programs to report back to health authorities on client outcomes.

Client outcomes and performance measures are a requirement of the Bridge Youth and Family Services and Round Lake Treatment Centre and is specified in each contract agreement.

Recommendation #11: Provide opioid dependent users ready access to opioid replacement interventions.

Significant resources have been focused on increasing access to OAT across the region. Please see attachments for more information

Attachment 3: IH OAT Clinics Summary v.3

Attachment 4: IH OAT Presentations 2016 - 2018

Recommendation #12: Expand diacetylmorphine and hydromorphone treatment programs for chronic opioid users.

Following review of this recommendation by Interior Health's addictions medicine specialist Interior Health is not pursuing this treatment option at this time.

Thank you for the opportunity to review the results of the inquiry and determine the applicability of these recommendations for our Health Authority.

Sincerely,



Chris Mazurkewich
President and Chief Executive Officer