

Hoskins, Jeannie JAG:EX

From: Butterfield, Nicole JAG:EX
Sent: Wednesday, October 1, 2014 3:33 PM
To: Cornett, Kathy M JAG:EX; Hoskins, Jeannie JAG:EX
Cc: Pecknold, Clayton JAG:EX; Anderson, Lisa R JAG:EX; Mas, Sophie B JAG:EX; Duplissie, Danielle JAG:EX; Engelbrecht, Karen JAG:EX; Cunningham, Susan JAG:EX
Subject: 504448 - BN for Information - Joint Ministry project to review police/health responses to persons experiencing mental health or substance use crisis.
Attachments: 140918_C504448_Moj_MoH_Mental_Health_MSA.docx

Hi Kathy/Jeannie:

The attached Briefing Note has been approved by the ADM, and is being forwarded to you for the DSG's approval and further distribution to the Minister's office for information.

Thank you,

Nicole

Nicole Butterfield
Executive Administrative Assistant to the
Assistant Deputy Minister and
Director of Police Services
Policing and Security Branch
Ministry of Justice
Telephone: 250 387-1100
Fax: 250 356-7747
Email: Nicole.Butterfield@gov.bc.ca

Hoskins, Jeannie JAG:EX

From: Cornett, Kathy M JAG:EX
Sent: Thursday, October 2, 2014 3:14 PM
To: Lalonde, Jarett JAG:EX; Ives, Andrew JAG:EX; Tennant, Laura JAG:EX
Cc: Matheson, Carissa JAG:EX; Hoskins, Jeannie JAG:EX; Groot, Jeff GCPE:EX; Hughes, Candice JAG:EX; Hansen, Lucy JAG:EX; Pecknold, Clayton JAG:EX; Butterfield, Nicole JAG:EX; Engelbrecht, Karen JAG:EX; Anderson, Lisa R JAG:EX; Duplissie, Danielle JAG:EX; Mas, Sophie B JAG:EX; Cunningham, Susan JAG:EX; Sitter, Donna GCPE:EX
Subject: 504448 - Information BN re Mental health or substance use crisis
Attachments: 504448 - BN re Mental health or substance use crisis.pdf

The attached Briefing Note has been approved by Lori Wanamaker, Deputy Solicitor General, and is for the information of the Minister.

Thank you, Kathy

Kathy Cornett

Senior Executive Administrative Assistant
Office of the Deputy Solicitor General
Ministry of Justice
Phone: 250 387-5362 Fax: 250 387-6224

**MINISTRY OF JUSTICE
POLICING AND SECURITY BRANCH
BRIEFING NOTE**

PURPOSE: For INFORMATION for Honourable Suzanne Anton, Attorney General and Minister of Justice

ISSUE: Overview of the Ministry of Justice and Ministry of Health joint project to review police/health integrated responses to persons experiencing a mental health or substance use crisis.

SUMMARY:

- In December 2013, the Ministry of Justice released the *BC Policing and Community Safety Plan* (BCPP) which was developed through public and community engagement. The increasing number of mental health related police calls and the impact it has on police resources was identified as a serious concern throughout the consultation process.
- Under Action Item #12 in the BCPP, the Ministry of Justice committed to:
 - a) work with stakeholders to promote best practices and expand successful policing strategies such as integrated police/health initiatives across the province; and
 - b) conduct a study to examine contact between police officers and persons with a mental illness and/or addictions to develop resource-efficient and effective strategies for these interactions.
- In response to BCPP Action Item #12, the Ministry of Justice (Policing and Security Branch) and the Ministry of Health have initiated a joint project to review integrated responses to persons experiencing a mental health and/or substance use (MHSU) crisis.
- The goal of the project is to produce an evidence-based tool which will provide clear and practical guidance to police agencies and MHSU service providers on their respective roles and responsibilities when working together to provide an effective, resource efficient, and integrated response to the needs of people with MHSU problems who come into contact with police.
- The Canadian Mental Health Association (BC Division) has been contracted to complete the project in 2014/15 and the first phase of the project – which includes a literature review and an environmental scan – is currently underway.

BACKGROUND:

- Research indicates that individuals with mental illness are three times more likely to interact with police than the general population¹ and 20-40% of those with mental illness will be arrested in their lifetime.
- Individuals with MHSU problems are over-represented in emergency department² and hospital admissions, among the unemployed³, and within correctional facilities⁴, requiring an integrated and collaborative response.
- Since the early 1990's, there has been considerable effort across the ministries of Justice and Health and the regional health authorities to work collaboratively and in consultation to provide joint services that would improve health, social, and public safety outcomes.
- Examples of collaborative initiatives between police and MHSU services include mobile response teams that provide a joint health and police response to people in a mental health crisis (e.g., Car 87) including on-site psychiatric assessments, interventions, and linking people to appropriate services.
- In addition, there are 15 Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) Teams in the province that work in partnership with local police to address complex care needs of severe MHSU clients.
- In recent years, the sharp increase in the number of mental health related calls has had an impact on police resources and led to criminal justice interventions on individuals in crisis who would be better dealt with through appropriate health supports.
- While there have been considerable efforts to collaborate to address the needs of this client population, there are increasing numbers of individuals experiencing a mental health crisis coming into contact with police and brought to the emergency department under Section 28 of the *Mental Health Act*.
- Section 28 apprehensions are only an option in situations where the individual is acting in a manner likely to endanger that person's own safety or the safety of others, leaving police with a large proportion of interactions with MHSU individuals who are not suitable for such an apprehension.

¹ Cotton, D. & Coleman, T. G. (2010) *Reducing Risk and Improving Outcomes of Police Interactions with People with Mental Illness*, Journal of Police Crisis Negotiations, 10:39-57, page 40.

² Hackman AL, Goldberg RW, Brown CH, Fang LJ, Dickerson FB, Wohlheiter K, Medoff DR, Kreyenbuhl JA, & Dixon L. (2006). *Psychiatry Services*, 57(4), 563-6.

³ National Mental Health Development Unit. (nd). *Mental health and employment*. London, UK: Author.

⁴ Somers, J., Ogloff, J., Ferguson, A. M., & Davis, M. (2005). *Mental disorder, substance use, and criminal justice contact*. Victoria, BC: BC Ministry of Health.

- The issue of police time spent on individuals with a MHSU problem, particularly those who are dealt with repeatedly, and the impact it has on police resources and their ability to respond to other calls was an important consideration for the initiation of the joint project.
- The joint project is a partnership between the Ministry of Health, Mental Health and Substance Use, Integrated Primary and Community Care; Health Authorities; and the Ministry of Justice, Policing and Security Branch.
- The final deliverable will be an overarching report with guidance for police agencies and health authorities in developing protocols for collaboration. The report will be based on a literature review, environmental scan evidence, expert opinion, and informant interviews.
- Following the research, the project aims to engage directly with individuals from health authorities and police agencies by hosting local engagement sessions.
- Ultimately, information gathered throughout the project will assist with the development of practical tools to support the development of locally appropriate protocols that strengthen the interfaces between health authorities and police agencies across the province.

OTHER MINISTRIES IMPACTED/CONSULTED:

- The Ministry of Health is actively involved in the joint initiative – a key partnership that furthers the BC Government's commitment to providing the best supports for people facing challenges associated with mental health and substance use.

Prepared by:
Danielle Duplissie
Program Manager
Policing and Security Branch
604-660-2647

Approved by:
Lisa Anderson
Executive Director and Deputy Director of
Police Services
Policing and Security Branch
604-660-1741

Approved October 1, 2014 by:
Clayton Pecknold
Assistant Deputy Minister
and Director of Police Services
Policing and Security Branch
250-387-1100

MacLeod, Peggy JAG:EX

From: Duplissie, Danielle JAG:EX
Sent: Thursday, October 16, 2014 12:32 PM
To: Cunningham, Susan JAG:EX
Cc: Mas, Sophie B JAG:EX
Subject: RE: One last question re: Briefing Binder
Attachments: 504448 - BN re Mental health or substance use crisis.pdf

Hi Susan,

This particular BN does not need to be updated as the information contained within remains the same and is supplemented by the BN I recently developed specific to the joint mental health project with the Ministry of Health (see attached).

Thanks for checking!
Danielle

From: Cunningham, Susan JAG:EX
Sent: Thursday, October 16, 2014 11:18 AM
To: Duplissie, Danielle JAG:EX
Subject: FW: One last question re: Briefing Binder

Hi Danielle,

Can you please advise? Thanks!

Susan

From: Engelbrecht, Karen JAG:EX
Sent: Thursday, October 16, 2014 11:15 AM
To: Cunningham, Susan JAG:EX
Subject: One last question re: Briefing Binder

Hi Susan,

Sorry to be peppering you with all these questions ☺

Is the following BN being updated by Danielle Duplissie or will it be coming from someone else that you know of?

- Police interaction with persons in crisis with mental illness and/or substance use

I have attached both the cliff log from the earlier 2014 Briefing binder BN, as well as the word version for updating.

Again, I apologize in advance if I already have it someplace in my email and have over looked it!!!! ☺

Thanks,
Karen

MacLeod, Peggy JAG:EX

From: Anderson, Lisa R JAG:EX
Sent: Thursday, October 2, 2014 5:31 PM
To: Indridson, Ian GCPE:EX
Cc: Duplissie, Danielle JAG:EX; Mas, Sophie B JAG:EX; Sitter, Donna GCPE:EX
Subject: Re: 504448 - Information BN re Mental health or substance use crisis

Yes - thanks

On Oct 2, 2014, at 4:16 PM, "Indridson, Ian GCPE:EX" <ian.indridson@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Thanks – Lisa, please confirm if good by you.

From: Duplissie, Danielle JAG:EX
Sent: Thursday, October 2, 2014 4:16 PM
To: Indridson, Ian GCPE:EX
Cc: Anderson, Lisa R JAG:EX; Mas, Sophie B JAG:EX; Sitter, Donna GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: 504448 - Information BN re Mental health or substance use crisis

Hello Ian,

I've just reviewed this with Sophie we've revised the wording to better reflect the intention of the project. The suggested bullet for Health now reads:

-

s.13

Please let me know if there is anything else you need.

Thanks,
Danielle

From: Indridson, Ian GCPE:EX
Sent: Thursday, October 2, 2014 3:38 PM
To: Duplissie, Danielle JAG:EX; Anderson, Lisa R JAG:EX
Cc: Sitter, Donna GCPE:EX
Subject: FW: 504448 - Information BN re Mental health or substance use crisis
Importance: High

Hi – are you good with this summary bullet? We'd like to provide to our Health colleagues in case needed. Tx.

s.13

From: Groot, Jeff GCPE:EX
Sent: Thursday, October 2, 2014 3:15 PM
To: Sitter, Donna GCPE:EX; Indridson, Ian GCPE:EX
Subject: FW: 504448 - Information BN re Mental health or substance use crisis

Anything in here the may be useful for us to give Health a bullet on if they have to answer the issue?

From: Cornett, Kathy M JAG:EX
Sent: Thursday, October 2, 2014 3:14 PM
To: Lalonde, Jarett JAG:EX; Ives, Andrew JAG:EX; Tennant, Laura JAG:EX
Cc: Matheson, Carissa JAG:EX; Hoskins, Jeannie JAG:EX; Groot, Jeff GCPE:EX; Hughes, Candice JAG:EX; Hansen, Lucy JAG:EX; Pecknold, Clayton JAG:EX; Butterfield, Nicole JAG:EX; Engelbrecht, Karen JAG:EX; Anderson, Lisa R JAG:EX; Duplissie, Danielle JAG:EX; Mas, Sophie B JAG:EX; Cunningham, Susan JAG:EX; Sitter, Donna GCPE:EX
Subject: 504448 - Information BN re Mental health or substance use crisis

The attached Briefing Note has been approved by Lori Wanamaker, Deputy Solicitor General, and is for the information of the Minister.

Thank you, Kathy

Kathy Cornett

Senior Executive Administrative Assistant
Office of the Deputy Solicitor General
Ministry of Justice
Phone: 250 387-5362 Fax: 250 387-6224

MacLeod, Peggy JAG:EX

From: Duplissie, Danielle JAG:EX
Sent: Wednesday, October 1, 2014 11:06 AM
To: Butterfield, Nicole JAG:EX
Subject: RE: Mental Health BN Sept 16 2014

Fantastic – thanks Nicole!

From: Butterfield, Nicole JAG:EX
Sent: Wednesday, October 1, 2014 11:04 AM
To: Duplissie, Danielle JAG:EX
Cc: Mas, Sophie B JAG:EX
Subject: FW: Mental Health BN Sept 16 2014

Yes, he returned it to me yesterday after I'd gone home for the day...it's approved. I'll be sending it to the DSG's office today.

Thx!

From: Duplissie, Danielle JAG:EX
Sent: Wednesday, October 1, 2014 10:57 AM
To: Butterfield, Nicole JAG:EX
Cc: Mas, Sophie B JAG:EX
Subject: RE: Mental Health BN Sept 16 2014

Hi Nicole,

I just wanted to touch base regarding the Mental Health BN – has this been reviewed/approved by Clayton?

Thanks!
Danielle

From: Butterfield, Nicole JAG:EX
Sent: Thursday, September 18, 2014 2:02 PM
To: Cunningham, Susan JAG:EX; Engelbrecht, Karen JAG:EX
Cc: Anderson, Lisa R JAG:EX; Duplissie, Danielle JAG:EX; Sitter, Donna GCPE:EX
Subject: FW: Mental Health BN Sept 16 2014

Thank you Susan.

Karen – please format for Clayton's review/approval. Thanks!

Nicole

From: Cunningham, Susan JAG:EX
Sent: Thursday, September 18, 2014 1:59 PM
To: Butterfield, Nicole JAG:EX
Cc: Sitter, Donna GCPE:EX; Duplissie, Danielle JAG:EX; Anderson, Lisa R JAG:EX
Subject: Mental Health BN Sept 16 2014

Nicole,

Please find attached BN for Clayton's approval. Please note that a cliff log has been started.

If you have any questions or concerns please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Thanks!

Susan
604-660-2604 (at reception until Sept 26)

MacLeod, Peggy JAG:EX

From: Duplissie, Danielle JAG:EX
Sent: Monday, September 29, 2014 11:00 AM
To: Mas, Sophie B JAG:EX
Subject: FW: Mental Health BN Sept 16 2014
Attachments: 140918 C504448.docx

Hi Sophie,

Here is the new MH BN – it is still pending approval from Clayton and has not been sent to Tanya for inclusion in the Briefing Binder. If we want Tanya to include it we will need to send it to her by Wednesday.

Danielle

From: Butterfield, Nicole JAG:EX
Sent: Thursday, September 18, 2014 2:02 PM
To: Cunningham, Susan JAG:EX; Engelbrecht, Karen JAG:EX
Cc: Anderson, Lisa R JAG:EX; Duplissie, Danielle JAG:EX; Sitter, Donna GCPE:EX
Subject: FW: Mental Health BN Sept 16 2014

Thank you Susan.

Karen – please format for Clayton’s review/approval. Thanks!

Nicole

From: Cunningham, Susan JAG:EX
Sent: Thursday, September 18, 2014 1:59 PM
To: Butterfield, Nicole JAG:EX
Cc: Sitter, Donna GCPE:EX; Duplissie, Danielle JAG:EX; Anderson, Lisa R JAG:EX
Subject: Mental Health BN Sept 16 2014

Nicole,

Please find attached BN for Clayton’s approval. Please note that a cliff log has been started.

If you have any questions or concerns please don’t hesitate to get in touch.

Thanks!

Susan
604-660-2604 (at reception until Sept 26)

**MINISTRY OF JUSTICE
POLICING AND SECURITY BRANCH
BRIEFING NOTE**

PURPOSE: For INFORMATION for Honourable Suzanne Anton, Attorney General and Minister of Justice

ISSUE: Overview of the Ministry of Justice and Ministry of Health joint project to review police/health integrated responses to persons experiencing a mental health or substance use crisis.

SUMMARY:

- In December 2013, the Ministry of Justice released the *BC Policing and Community Safety Plan* (BCPP) which was developed through public and community engagement. The increasing number of mental health related police calls and the impact it has on police resources was identified as a serious concern throughout the consultation process.
- Under Action Item #12 in the BCPP, the Ministry of Justice committed to:
 - a) work with stakeholders to promote best practices and expand successful policing strategies such as integrated police/health initiatives across the province; and
 - b) conduct a study to examine contact between police officers and persons with a mental illness and/or addictions to develop resource-efficient and effective strategies for these interactions.
- In response to BCPP Action Item #12, the Ministry of Justice (Policing and Security Branch) and the Ministry of Health have initiated a joint project to review integrated responses to persons experiencing a mental health and/or substance use (MHSU) crisis.
- The goal of the project is to produce an evidence-based tool which will provide clear and practical guidance to police agencies and MHSU service providers on their respective roles and responsibilities when working together to provide an effective, resource efficient, and integrated response to the needs of people with MHSU problems who come into contact with police.
- The Canadian Mental Health Association (BC Division) has been contracted to complete the project in 2014/15 and the first phase of the project – which includes a literature review and an environmental scan – is currently underway.

BACKGROUND:

- Research indicates that individuals with mental illness are three times more likely to interact with police than the general population¹ and 20-40% of those with mental illness will be arrested in their lifetime.
- Individuals with MHSU problems are over-represented in emergency department² and hospital admissions, among the unemployed³, and within correctional facilities⁴, requiring an integrated and collaborative response.
- Since the early 1990's, there has been considerable effort across the ministries of Justice and Health and the regional health authorities to work collaboratively and in consultation to provide joint services that would improve health, social, and public safety outcomes.
- Examples of collaborative initiatives between police and MHSU services include mobile response teams that provide a joint health and police response to people in a mental health crisis (e.g., Car 87) including on-site psychiatric assessments, interventions, and linking people to appropriate services.
- In addition, there are 15 Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) Teams in the province that work in partnership with local police to address complex care needs of severe MHSU clients.
- In recent years, the sharp increase in the number of mental health related calls has had an impact on police resources and led to criminal justice interventions on individuals in crisis who would be better dealt with through appropriate health supports.
- While there have been considerable efforts to collaborate to address the needs of this client population, there are increasing numbers of individuals experiencing a mental health crisis coming into contact with police and brought to the emergency department under Section 28 of the *Mental Health Act*.
- Section 28 apprehensions are only an option in situations where the individual is acting in a manner likely to endanger that person's own safety or the safety of others, leaving police with a large proportion of interactions with MHSU individuals who are not suitable for such an apprehension.

¹ Cotton, D. & Coleman, T. G. (2010) *Reducing Risk and Improving Outcomes of Police Interactions with People with Mental Illness*, *Journal of Police Crisis Negotiations*, 10:39-57, page 40.

² Hackman AL, Goldberg RW, Brown CH, Fang LJ, Dickerson FB, Wohlheiter K, Medoff DR, Kreyenbuhl JA, & Dixon L. (2006). *Psychiatry Services*, 57(4), 563-6.

³ National Mental Health Development Unit. (nd). *Mental health and employment*. London, UK: Author.

⁴ Somers, J., Ogloff, J., Ferguson, A. M., & Davis, M. (2005). *Mental disorder, substance use, and criminal justice contact*. Victoria, BC: BC Ministry of Health.

- The issue of police time spent on individuals with a MHSU problem, particularly those who are dealt with repeatedly, and the impact it has on police resources and their ability to respond to other calls was an important consideration for the initiation of the joint project.
- The joint project is a partnership between the Ministry of Health, Mental Health and Substance Use, Integrated Primary and Community Care; Health Authorities; and the Ministry of Justice, Policing and Security Branch.
- The final deliverable will be an overarching report with guidance for police agencies and health authorities in developing protocols for collaboration. The report will be based on a literature review, environmental scan evidence, expert opinion, and informant interviews.
- Following the research, the project aims to engage directly with individuals from health authorities and police agencies by hosting local engagement sessions.
- Ultimately, information gathered throughout the project will assist with the development of practical tools to support the development of locally appropriate protocols that strengthen the interfaces between health authorities and police agencies across the province.

OTHER MINISTRIES IMPACTED/CONSULTED:

- The Ministry of Health is actively involved in the joint initiative – a key partnership that furthers the BC Government's commitment to providing the best supports for people facing challenges associated with mental health and substance use.

Prepared by:

Danielle Duplissie
Program Manager
Policing and Security Branch
604.660.2647

Reviewed by:

Lisa Anderson
Executive Director and Deputy Director of
Police Services
Policing and Security Branch
604.660.1741

Approved xxx, 2014 by:

Clayton Pecknold
Assistant Deputy Minister
and Director of Police Services
Policing and Security Branch
250.387.1100

MacLeod, Peggy JAG:EX

From: Duplissie, Danielle JAG:EX
Sent: Thursday, September 18, 2014 1:11 PM
To: Anderson, Lisa R JAG:EX
Subject: RE: Mental Health BN Sept 16 2014 V0.4

Thanks Lisa

From: Anderson, Lisa R JAG:EX
Sent: Thursday, September 18, 2014 1:11 PM
To: Duplissie, Danielle JAG:EX
Cc: Cunningham, Susan JAG:EX
Subject: RE: Mental Health BN Sept 16 2014 V0.4

Looks good – the added details flow well. ok to move to Clayton for review.

L.

From: Duplissie, Danielle JAG:EX
Sent: Thursday, September 18, 2014 10:43 AM
To: Anderson, Lisa R JAG:EX
Cc: Cunningham, Susan JAG:EX
Subject: RE: Mental Health BN Sept 16 2014 V0.4

Hi Lisa,

Based on your suggestion, I have revised the mental health BN to include additional information in the background section about the project – new information has been highlighted in yellow.

Thanks again for your feedback and please let me know if you have any additional changes.

Danielle

From: Duplissie, Danielle JAG:EX
Sent: Thursday, September 18, 2014 8:53 AM
To: Anderson, Lisa R JAG:EX
Subject: RE: Mental Health BN Sept 16 2014 V0.4

Hi Lisa,

Thanks for reviewing this so quickly. I agree with your comment within and have replaced **s.13** with "where the individual is acting in a manner likely to endanger that person's own safety or the safety of others" – the latter is a direct quote from S.28 of the MH Act.

To confirm, this is a new BN. Previous BNs focussed on the issue and prevalence of MH, while this BN is focussed on specific information related to the joint project with MoH. That being said, all of the information

has come from previously approved documents – either from the MH BN approved Feb 2014 or the Project Charter approved by Clayton Aug 8 2014.

Please let me know if you're comfortable with the revised wording and with the BN going forward to Clayton for approval.

Cheers,
Danielle

From: Anderson, Lisa R JAG:EX
Sent: Thursday, September 18, 2014 7:51 AM
To: Duplissie, Danielle JAG:EX
Subject: Mental Health BN Sept 16 2014 V0 3

Hi – I have made one comment within. Also, can you confirm, is this an update to previously approved BN or is this new?

**MINISTRY OF JUSTICE
POLICING AND SECURITY BRANCH
BRIEFING NOTE**

PURPOSE: For INFORMATION for Honourable Suzanne Anton, Attorney General and Minister of Justice

ISSUE: Overview of the Ministry of Justice and Ministry of Health joint project to review police/health integrated responses to persons experiencing a mental health or substance use crisis.

SUMMARY:

- In December 2013, the Ministry of Justice released the *BC Policing and Community Safety Plan* (BCPP) which was developed through public and community engagement. The increasing number of mental health related police calls and the impact it has on police resources was identified as a serious concern throughout the consultation process.
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- The Canadian Mental Health Association (BC Division) has been contracted to complete the project in 2014/15 and the first phase of the project – which includes a literature review and an environmental scan – is currently underway.

BACKGROUND:

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- Individuals with MHSU problems are over-represented in emergency department² and hospital admissions, among the unemployed³, and within correctional facilities⁴, requiring an integrated and collaborative response.
- Since the early 1990's, there has been considerable effort across the ministries of Justice and Health and the regional health authorities to work collaboratively and in consultation to provide joint services that would improve health, social, and public safety outcomes.
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Prepared by:

Danielle Duplissie
Program Manager
Policing and Security Branch
604-660-2647

Approved by:

Lisa Anderson
Executive Director and Deputy Director of
Police Services
Policing and Security Branch
604-660-1741

Approved October 1, 2014 by:

Clayton Pecknold
Assistant Deputy Minister
and Director of Police Services
Policing and Security Branch
250-387-1100

MacLeod, Peggy JAG:EX

From: Anderson, Lisa R JAG:EX
Sent: Thursday, September 18, 2014 7:51 AM
To: Duplissie, Danielle JAG:EX
Subject: Mental Health BN Sept 16 2014 V0 3
Attachments: Mental Health BN Sept 16 2014 V0 3.docx

Hi – I have made one comment within. Also, can you confirm, is this an update to previously approved BN or is this new?

**MINISTRY OF JUSTICE
POLICING AND SECURITY BRANCH
BRIEFING NOTE**

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BACKGROUND:

- Research indicates that individuals with mental illness are three times more likely to interact with police than the general population¹ and 20-40% of those with mental illness will be arrested in their lifetime.
- Individuals with MHSU problems are over-represented in emergency department² and hospital admissions, among the unemployed³, and within correctional facilities⁴, requiring an integrated and collaborative response.
- Since the early 1990's, there has been considerable effort across the ministries of Justice and Health and the regional health authorities to work collaboratively and in consultation to provide joint services that would improve health, social, and public safety outcomes.
- Examples of collaborative initiatives between police and MHSU services include mobile response teams that provide a joint health and police response to people in a mental health crisis (e.g., Car 87) including on-site psychiatric assessments, interventions, and linking people to appropriate services.
- In addition, there are 15 Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) Teams in the province that work in partnership with local police to address complex care needs of severe MHSU clients.
- In recent years, the sharp increase in the number of mental health related calls has had an impact on police resources and led to criminal justice interventions on individuals in crisis who would be better dealt with through appropriate health supports.
- While there have been considerable efforts to collaborate to address the needs of this client population, there are increasing numbers of individuals experiencing a mental health crisis coming into contact with police and brought to the emergency department under Section 28 of the *Mental Health Act*.
- Section 28 apprehensions are only an option in situations s.13 leaving police with a large proportion of interactions with MHSU individuals who are not in fact suitable for such an apprehension. s.13

¹ Cotton, D. & Coleman, T. G. (2010) *Reducing Risk and Improving Outcomes of Police Interactions with People with Mental Illness*, Journal of Police Crisis Negotiations, 10:39-57, page 40.

² Hackman AL, Goldberg RW, Brown CH, Fang LJ, Dickerson FB, Wohlheiter K, Medoff DR, Kreyenbuhl JA, & Dixon L. (2006). *Psychiatry Services*, 57(4), 563-6.

³ National Mental Health Development Unit. (nd). *Mental health and employment*. London, UK: Author.

⁴ Somers, J., Ogiuffo, J., Ferguson, A. M., & Davis, M. (2005). *Mental disorder, substance use, and criminal justice contact*. Victoria, BC: BC Ministry of Health.

- The issue of police time spent on individuals with a MHSU problem, particularly those who are dealt with repetitively, and the impact it has on police resources and their ability to respond to other calls was an important consideration for the initiation of the joint project.

OTHER MINISTRIES IMPACTED/CONSULTED:

- The Ministry of Health is actively involved in the joint initiative – a key partnership that furthers the BC Government's commitment to providing the best supports for people facing challenges associated with mental health and substance use.

Prepared by:
Danielle Duplissie
Program Manager
Policing and Security Branch
604.660.2647

Reviewed by:
Lisa Anderson
Executive Director and Deputy Director of
Police Services
Policing and Security Branch
604.660.1741

Approved xxxx, 2014 by:
Clayton Pecknold
Assistant Deputy Minister
and Director of Police Services
Policing and Security Branch
250.387.1100

MacLeod, Peggy JAG:EX

From: Cunningham, Susan JAG:EX
Sent: Thursday, September 18, 2014 1:59 PM
To: Butterfield, Nicole JAG:EX
Cc: Sitter, Donna GCPE:EX; Duplissie, Danielle JAG:EX; Anderson, Lisa R JAG:EX
Subject: Mental Health BN Sept 16 2014
Attachments: 140918 C504448.docx

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Nicole,

Please find attached BN for Clayton's approval. Please note that a cliff log has been started.

If you have any questions or concerns please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Thanks!

Susan
604-660-2604 (at reception until Sept 26)

**MINISTRY OF JUSTICE
POLICING AND SECURITY BRANCH
BRIEFING NOTE**

PURPOSE: For INFORMATION for Honourable Suzanne Anton, Attorney General and Minister of Justice

ISSUE: Overview of the Ministry of Justice and Ministry of Health joint project to review police/health integrated responses to persons experiencing a mental health or substance use crisis.

SUMMARY:

- In December 2013, the Ministry of Justice released the *BC Policing and Community Safety Plan* (BCPP) which was developed through public and community engagement. The increasing number of mental health related police calls and the impact it has on police resources was identified as a serious concern throughout the consultation process.
- Under Action Item #12 in the BCPP, the Ministry of Justice committed to:
 - a) work with stakeholders to promote best practices and expand successful policing strategies such as integrated police/health initiatives across the province; and
 - b) conduct a study to examine contact between police officers and persons with a mental illness and/or addictions to develop resource-efficient and effective strategies for these interactions.
- In response to BCPP Action Item #12, the Ministry of Justice (Policing and Security Branch) and the Ministry of Health have initiated a joint project to review integrated responses to persons experiencing a mental health and/or substance use (MHSU) crisis.
- The goal of the project is to produce an evidence-based tool which will provide clear and practical guidance to police agencies and MHSU service providers on their respective roles and responsibilities when working together to provide an effective, resource efficient, and integrated response to the needs of people with MHSU problems who come into contact with police.
- The Canadian Mental Health Association (BC Division) has been contracted to complete the project in 2014/15 and the first phase of the project – which includes a literature review and an environmental scan – is currently underway.

BACKGROUND:

- Research indicates that individuals with mental illness are three times more likely to interact with police than the general population¹ and 20-40% of those with mental illness will be arrested in their lifetime.
- Individuals with MHSU problems are over-represented in emergency department² and hospital admissions, among the unemployed³, and within correctional facilities⁴, requiring an integrated and collaborative response.
- Since the early 1990's, there has been considerable effort across the ministries of Justice and Health and the regional health authorities to work collaboratively and in consultation to provide joint services that would improve health, social, and public safety outcomes.
- Examples of collaborative initiatives between police and MHSU services include mobile response teams that provide a joint health and police response to people in a mental health crisis (e.g., Car 87) including on-site psychiatric assessments, interventions, and linking people to appropriate services.
- In addition, there are 15 Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) Teams in the province that work in partnership with local police to address complex care needs of severe MHSU clients.
- In recent years, the sharp increase in the number of mental health related calls has had an impact on police resources and led to criminal justice interventions on individuals in crisis who would be better dealt with through appropriate health supports.
- While there have been considerable efforts to collaborate to address the needs of this client population, there are increasing numbers of individuals experiencing a mental health crisis coming into contact with police and brought to the emergency department under Section 28 of the *Mental Health Act*.
- Section 28 apprehensions are only an option in situations where the individual is acting in a manner likely to endanger that person's own safety or the safety of others, leaving police with a large proportion of interactions with MHSU individuals who are not suitable for such an apprehension.

¹ Cotton, D. & Coleman, T. G. (2010) *Reducing Risk and Improving Outcomes of Police Interactions with People with Mental Illness*, *Journal of Police Crisis Negotiations*, 10:39-57, page 40.

² Hackman AL, Goldberg RW, Brown CH, Fang LJ, Dickerson FB, Wohlheiter K, Medoff DR, Kreyenbuhl JA, & Dixon L. (2006). *Psychiatry Services*, 57(4), 563-6.

³ National Mental Health Development Unit. (nd). *Mental health and employment*. London, UK: Author.

⁴ Somers, J., Ogloff, J., Ferguson, A. M., & Davis, M. (2005). *Mental disorder, substance use, and criminal justice contact*. Victoria, BC: BC Ministry of Health.

- The issue of police time spent on individuals with a MHSU problem, particularly those who are dealt with repeatedly, and the impact it has on police resources and their ability to respond to other calls was an important consideration for the initiation of the joint project.
- The joint project is a partnership between the Ministry of Health, Mental Health and Substance Use, Integrated Primary and Community Care; Health Authorities; and the Ministry of Justice, Policing and Security Branch.
- The final deliverable will be an overarching report with guidance for police agencies and health authorities in developing protocols for collaboration. The report will be based on a literature review, environmental scan evidence, expert opinion, and informant interviews.
- Following the research, the project aims to engage directly with individuals from health authorities and police agencies by hosting local engagement sessions.
- Ultimately, information gathered throughout the project will assist with the development of practical tools to support the development of locally appropriate protocols that strengthen the interfaces between health authorities and police agencies across the province.

OTHER MINISTRIES IMPACTED/CONSULTED:

- The Ministry of Health is actively involved in the joint initiative – a key partnership that furthers the BC Government's commitment to providing the best supports for people facing challenges associated with mental health and substance use.

Prepared by:

Danielle Duplissie
Program Manager
Policing and Security Branch
604.660.2647

Reviewed by:

Lisa Anderson
Executive Director and Deputy Director of
Police Services
Policing and Security Branch
604.660.1741

Approved xxxx, 2014 by:

Clayton Pecknold
Assistant Deputy Minister
and Director of Police Services
Policing and Security Branch
250.387.1100

MacLeod, Peggy JAG:EX

From: Duplissie, Danielle JAG:EX
Sent: Wednesday, September 17, 2014 3:29 PM
To: Anderson, Lisa
Cc: Cunningham, Susan
Subject: BN for Review - MoJ/MoH Joint Project
Attachments: Mental Health BN Sept 16 2014 V0.3.docx

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Hello Lisa,

Please find attached an Information Briefing Note intended for the Minister that provides an overview of the Ministry of Justice and Ministry of Health joint project to review police/health integrated responses to persons experiencing a mental health or substance use crisis.

I appreciate you taking the time to review the BN before it goes forward to Clayton for approval and welcome any feedback/changes you might have.

Thank you,
Danielle Duplissie, PMP
Project Manager
Policing and Security Branch, Ministry of Justice
405-815 Hornby Street
Vancouver, BC V6Z 2E6
Office 604.660.2647
Mobile [s.17](#)

**MINISTRY OF JUSTICE
POLICING AND SECURITY BRANCH
BRIEFING NOTE**

PURPOSE: For INFORMATION for Honourable Suzanne Anton, Attorney General and Minister of Justice

ISSUE: Overview of the Ministry of Justice and Ministry of Health joint project to review police/health integrated responses to persons experiencing a mental health or substance use crisis.

SUMMARY:

- In December 2013, the Ministry of Justice released the *BC Policing and Community Safety Plan* (BCPP) which was developed through public and community engagement. The increasing number of mental health related police calls and the impact it has on police resources was identified as a serious concern throughout the consultation process.
- Under Action Item #12 in the BCPP, the Ministry of Justice committed to:
 - a) work with stakeholders to promote best practices and expand successful policing strategies such as integrated police/health initiatives across the province; and
 - b) conduct a study to examine contact between police officers and persons with a mental illness and/or addictions to develop resource-efficient and effective strategies for these interactions.
- In response to BCPP Action Item #12, the Ministry of Justice (Policing and Security Branch) and the Ministry of Health have initiated a joint project to review integrated responses to persons experiencing a mental health and/or substance use (MHSU) crisis.
- The goal of the project is to produce an evidence-based tool which will provide clear and practical guidance to police agencies and MHSU service providers on their respective roles and responsibilities when working together to provide an effective, resource efficient, and integrated response to the needs of people with MHSU problems who come into contact with police.
- The Canadian Mental Health Association (BC Division) has been contracted to complete the project in 2014/15 and the first phase of the project – which includes a literature review and an environmental scan – is currently underway.

BACKGROUND:

- Research indicates that individuals with mental illness are three times more likely to interact with police than the general population¹ and 20-40% of those with mental illness will be arrested in their lifetime.
- Individuals with MHSU problems are over-represented in emergency department² and hospital admissions, among the unemployed³, and within correctional facilities⁴, requiring an integrated and collaborative response.
- Since the early 1990's, there has been considerable effort across the ministries of Justice and Health and the regional health authorities to work collaboratively and in consultation to provide joint services that would improve health, social, and public safety outcomes.
- Examples of collaborative initiatives between police and MHSU services include mobile response teams that provide a joint health and police response to people in a mental health crisis (e.g., Car 87) including on-site psychiatric assessments, interventions, and linking people to appropriate services.
- In addition, there are 15 Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) Teams in the province that work in partnership with local police to address complex care needs of severe MHSU clients.
- In recent years, the sharp increase in the number of mental health related calls has had an impact on police resources and led to criminal justice interventions on individuals in crisis who would be better dealt with through appropriate health supports.
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OTHER MINISTRIES IMPACTED/CONSULTED:

- The Ministry of Health is actively involved in the joint initiative – a key partnership that furthers the BC Government's commitment to providing the best supports for people facing challenges associated with mental health and substance use.

Prepared by:

Danielle Duplissie
Program Manager
Policing and Security Branch
604.660.2647

Reviewed by:

Lisa Anderson
Executive Director and Deputy Director of
Police Services
Policing and Security Branch
604.660.1741

Approved ~~xxxx~~, 2014 by:

Clayton Pecknold
Assistant Deputy Minister
and Director of Police Services
Policing and Security Branch
250.387.1100

MacLeod, Peggy JAG:EX

From: Duplissie, Danielle JAG:EX
Sent: Wednesday, September 17, 2014 3:07 PM
To: Cunningham, Susan
Subject: RE: Formatting Required - BN for Minister on Mental Health Project
Attachments: Mental Health BN Sept 16 2014 V0.3.docx

Hi Susan,

Please have a look at the revised version and let me know what you think.

Thanks!
Danielle

From: Duplissie, Danielle JAG:EX
Sent: Wednesday, September 17, 2014 11:08 AM
To: Cunningham, Susan
Subject: Formatting Required - BN for Minister on Mental Health Project

Hi Susan,

As discussed, could you please format the attached Information Briefing Note? Please let me know once complete so I can send to Lisa Anderson for review.

Thanks,
Danielle Duplissie, PMP
Project Manager
Policing and Security Branch, Ministry of Justice
405-815 Hornby Street
Vancouver, BC V6Z 2E6
Office 604.660.2647
Mobile [s.17](#)

**MINISTRY OF JUSTICE
POLICING AND SECURITY BRANCH
BRIEFING NOTE**

PURPOSE: For INFORMATION for Honourable Suzanne Anton, Attorney General and Minister of Justice

ISSUE: Overview of the Ministry of Justice and Ministry of Health joint project to review police/health integrated responses to persons experiencing a mental health or substance use crisis.

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OTHER MINISTRIES IMPACTED/CONSULTED:

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Prepared by:

Danielle Duplissie
Program Manager
Policing and Security Branch
604.660.2647

Reviewed by:

Lisa Anderson
Executive Director and Deputy Director of
Police Services
Policing and Security Branch
604.660.1741

Approved xxx, 2014 by:

Clayton Pecknold
Assistant Deputy Minister
and Director of Police Services
Policing and Security Branch
250.387.1100