

Miniaci, Mario HLTH:EX

From: Docs Processing HLTH:EX
Sent: Tue, June 12, 2012 10:06 AM
To: Jukes, Shaina HLTH:EX
Cc: Miniaci, Mario HLTH:EX; Docs Processing HLTH:EX; Casanova, Tamara HLTH:EX; Boomer, Joanne HLTH:EX
Subject: MO Request for Meeting Material- Abbotsford Mayor (Mtg scheduled for Tuesday, June 12th (Cliff 930044/DMA Log #39)
Attachments: 930044 - Bulleted information for Minister of Health's meeting with Mayor of Abbotsford re Harm Reduction Services in Abbotsford.docx; 930044 Ambulance Service in Abbotsford_Final (3).docx; 930044 - Appendix A_AbbotsfordChilliwack_YearlyQueries.pdf

Hi Shaina:

Attached is material provided by our staff for the Minister's meeting at noon today. Sorry for the delay in getting this to you.

This info has been reviewed and approved by Elaine McKnight, CAO. It is currently in with Graham Whitmarsh for signoff, and we will advise if there are any concerns.

Thanks,

Kathy Simonson
Program Coordinator / Documents Processing Unit / Ministry of Health
5-2 1515 Blanshard St, Victoria BC V8W 3C8
Telephone 250 952-1811

kathy.simonson@gov.bc.ca

From: Miniaci, Mario HLTH:EX
Sent: Thursday, May 24, 2012 9:31 AM
To: Docs Processing HLTH:EX
Cc: Casanova, Tamara HLTH:EX
Subject: Meeting Material- Abbotsford Mayor

Hello All,

Minister will be meeting with the Abbotsford Mayor and 2 of topics that mayor wishes to raise is Harm Reduction in Abbotsford and the Ambulance Service, which have both recently been in the news. It would be excellent if we could receive the background information these items by June 5th as the meeting is scheduled for June 7th. Thanks!

Best,

Mario

Mario Miniaci | Executive Assistant
Office of the Honourable Michael de Jong, QC
Minister of Health

T S15 | F: 250.356.9587

Bulleted information for Minister of Health's meeting with Mayor of Abbotsford re: Harm Reduction Services in Abbotsford

BACKGROUND

- In 2005, Abbotsford City Council (Council) announced its intention to create a municipal bylaw restricting provision of harm reduction services such as distribution of harm reduction supplies and methadone maintenance treatment in the city.
- The Deputy Minister of Health and Ministry of Health (the Ministry) staff attended a Council meeting to convey Ministry concerns about the proposed bylaw. Council subsequently adopted the bylaw (Bylaw 392), significantly restricting harm reduction services through multiple amendments of zone use definitions.
- *Harm Reduction: A British Columbia Community Guide* (the guide) was released at the Union of British Columbia Municipalities 2005 Convention by the Minister of Community Services in collaboration with the Ministry. The guide provides information to assist municipalities in taking a leadership role in reducing drug related harm in their communities.
- Abbotsford's Supporting Wellness and Reducing Harm Committee, composed of members representing community, advocacy and drug user organizations, has been quietly distributing harm reduction supplies in Abbotsford since 2005, independently from Fraser Health Authority (FHA). Additionally, Portland Hotel Society, Vancouver, has been distributing supplies weekly since October 2011 through their mobile services. Portland Hotels Society is seeking funding from FHA to continue this service.
- In the fall of 2011, a new Abbotsford Council, led by Mayor Banman, asked David Portesi, Director of Health Promotion and Prevention for FHA, to provide information for a report on the impact of substance use and the lack of harm reduction services in the municipality. Additionally, in late 2011 and early 2012, the new Council conducted two stakeholder engagement sessions with representatives from the city, community organizations and drug user groups regarding the creation of a service plan for harm reduction.
- Based on the engagement sessions and on evidence-based best practices for harm reduction services, Mr. Portesi created a draft document outlining FHA's plan for the formal introduction of a coordinated harm reduction supply distribution program and related services in Abbotsford. The detailed plan outlines service delivery components and a proposed implementation plan and timeline. Mr. Portesi presented the report to the new Council on Monday, May 28, 2012.

DISCUSSION

- Population level data related to illicit drug use in Abbotsford demonstrates the following:
 - Abbotsford has the highest rate of hospital admissions due to drug overdose compared to Surrey and Burnaby/New Westminster, and other areas in Fraser Health with established harm reduction services;
 - Drug overdose mortality rates in Abbotsford are higher than both the regional rate for Fraser Health and the provincial rate;
 - Abbotsford experiences a high rate of reported hepatitis C virus compared to other municipalities and to Fraser Health as a whole. Injection drug use is the main route for transmission; and
 - New HIV infections have been steadily declining in Fraser Health, as they have in BC overall. Abbotsford has one of the lowest rates of new HIV infections in Fraser Health, although caution needs to be taken when interpreting these rates, as they are based on small counts.