

Barrett, Andrew MMHA:EX

From: Barrett, Andrew MMHA:EX
Sent: March 22, 2021 9:38 AM
To: Casanova, Tamara MMHA:EX
Cc: Murphy, Kayla MMHA:EX; Newhook, Kelly MMHA:EX
Subject: RE: IN/QP Notes

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

I'll check in with them too – Eric and Michael are in a meeting with Kelly and Minister until just before 11 though. If you have anything on file, please do send over (I'm not sure what access you have).

Thanks again,
Andrew

From: Casanova, Tamara MMHA:EX <Tamara.Casanova@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: March 22, 2021 9:33 AM
To: Barrett, Andrew MMHA:EX <Andrew.Barrett@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Murphy, Kayla MMHA:EX <Kayla.Murphy@gov.bc.ca>; Newhook, Kelly MMHA:EX <Kelly.Newhook@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Re: IN/QP Notes

Has GCPE been looped in for the QP info?

Tamara Casanova

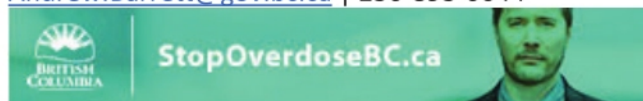
Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 22, 2021, at 9:32 AM, Barrett, Andrew MMHA:EX <Andrew.Barrett@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Hi Tamara,

Can you send over any issues notes or QP notes on Kimberly's Law and/or the Safe Care Act? If you could send anything over ASAP that would be greatly appreciated. Give me a call if you have any questions.

Thanks,
Andrew (*he/him*)
Executive Assistant to the Honourable Sheila Malcolmson
The Office of the Minister of Mental Health and Addictions
Andrew.Barrett@gov.bc.ca | 250-893-0644



Barrett, Andrew MMHA:EX

From: Barrett, Andrew MMHA:EX
Sent: March 23, 2021 9:48 AM
To: Newhook, Kelly MMHA:EX
Subject: FW: Pathways Addictions Resource Centre

Importance: High

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Just received – also a flag about QP.

Andrew

From: Ashton.MLA, Dan <Dan.Ashton.MLA@leg.bc.ca>
Sent: March 23, 2021 9:33 AM
To: Barrett, Andrew MMHA:EX <Andrew.Barrett@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: FW: Pathways Addictions Resource Centre
Importance: High

[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.

Good Morning Andrew,

MLA Dan Ashton has asked me to forward this letter from Daryl Meyers, Executive Director of Pathways Addictions Resource Centre in Penticton.

The Minister was cc'd in the original but to the general email and we are hoping that you can make sure this letter gets to the Minister from Ms. Meyers as this is a very big issue in the constituency at this time.

Thank you so much for getting this to Minister Malcolmson.

Respectfully,

Sue Hopley
Constituency Assistant to Dan Ashton, MLA Penticton
210-300 Riverside Dr. Penticton, B.C.
V2A 9C9
250-487-4400
Dan.Ashton.MLA@leg.bc.ca
Sue.Hopley@leg.bc.ca

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From: Daryl Meyers <darylmeyers@pathwaysaddictions.ca>
Sent: March 18, 2021 8:20 PM
To: Minister, MMHA MMHA:EX <MMHA.Minister@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Ashton.MLA, Dan <Dan.Ashton.MLA@leg.bc.ca>
Subject: Pathways Addictions Resource Centre
Importance: High

Dear Minister Malcomson:

I have been listening to you during the legislature debates and I felt it necessary to provide you with more information about Pathways Addictions Resource Centre. Pathways Addictions Resource Centre does not just provide counselling as you stated on Thursday March 18, 2021. There is so much misinformation out there it is frustrating.

Pathways has been in the community providing substance use and addictions services for 47 years throughout the entire South Okanagan to Princeton and up to Peachland. The staff have extensive knowledge in the continuum of care that is involved in substance use and addictions and that is a skill not learned by obtaining a Masters of Counselling degree. Do they know how to match the person to the inpatient treatment centre? Are they aware of the multitude of treatment centres there are in BC and how a person qualified to get in? Do they know which ones take moms, which ones take people on methadone, which ones take people using barbituates, which ones take couples? It takes years of learning to know this. Right now IH relies on Pathways to provide this service.

Although substance use and addictions is a medical issue it cannot be treated using the medical model that Interior Health intends to provide. It is not a broken leg that will heal in 6 weeks, or a sore throat that a round of antibiotics will cure in 10 days. Substance use and addictions is life long. Many of our clients who have accessed service years ago will often need to access service again as the struggle is always present. To be able to call the same place, speak to the same counsellor who worked with you in the beginning brings comfort to those who struggle. It may only be the 1 phone call or session to get back on track but it was a comforting session. They did not have to tell their story to a stranger all over again.

Substance use and addiction treatment is grass roots and needs to be kept in community. The stigma attached to it is enormous. Where will the wealthy business person go when they need help? Not into a government agency. Where will the government employee go when they need help? Not into another government agency. What about the mother that drinks 2 bottles of wine a day? She is not walking into a government building in a small community for everyone to see. She is NOT walking into the same building where she takes her kids to get their immunizations. But that is where she will have to go if she wants help. So they will know her by name, most likely, it's a small town. The receptionist at the front will ask her how her kids are, she will go up to the 3rd floor and then everyone will know. She will speak to several people before she sees a counsellor, as she has to go through intake, then be assessed, then get connected to a counsellor, then maybe another counsellor because the first one is gone or on leave or..... Community based treatment is the cornerstone of the community. I know you referenced Foundry. Foundry is not run by IH, Foundry is run by a grass roots not for profit who collaborates extensively with several service providers to have that wrap around care. Pathways is there in the building providing services to youth.

We all talk about the opioid crisis but many of Pathways clients have alcohol use disorder. They are not going to be served by the outreach team, the overdose prevention site, the substance use connection team. They want a community based centre to go into discretely and receive service.

IH has informed us that they will not be providing assessments for the Ministry of Children and Families so parents can work to get their children back? Who will be providing that? IH has informed us they will not be working with probation or the correctional facility to work with people who have committed a crime. Who will be providing that? Who will be providing the 1200 prevention education sessions the students in School District 67 receive on substance use? Who will be answering their phone to work with an opioid use disorder client at 10:00pm or on the weekend because they may relapse? Interior Health provides none of these services.

They are taking back the Pathways counselling contracts to hire maybe 2 counsellors. The Counsellors at Pathways make less than \$30.00 an hour. A Counsellor at IH will make upwards of \$50.00. So the contracts they are taking back will never replace all the services that Pathways provides the citizens of Penticton with.

IH has stated there will be no drop in. People have to call in and make an appointment. How is this meeting people where they are at? When someone needs help they want help today, now not 3 weeks or 6 weeks from now. Pathways receives calls from all over the Interior Health Authorities area (Kamloops, Kelowna, Nelson etc) asking if we can refer them to inpatient treatment, start seeing a counsellor because the wait list through IH in those areas is up to 6 months. 6 months!!! That is no way to deal with this issue. More people will die. People using opioids can walk into Pathways and be immediately connected to a Navigator. They don't have to call, wait in line or be put on a wait list. They get help immediately. We have had 120 people go through our opioid program and not one has overdosed. All have been housed, many have returned to work and been reunited with their families due to the wrap around service Pathways provides with all the other services in the community. 120 people!! We house an Opioid Agonist physician who also calls clients when they are in distress evenings and weekends. We provide harm reduction supplies, teach naloxone training, give hope to parents who children are using and are so afraid they may die. We do grief groups for people who have lost a loved one to an overdose, groups for people who are mandated to take anger management counselling and so much more.

The funding we received from IH was the cornerstone funding we used to offer a multitude of services. These will all be gone.

Did anyone do their homework? Talked to the people who use the service? NO. A decision was made and now the fall out begins.

The previous Minister of Mental Health Substance Use promised to visit us and then never showed.

Thanks for your time!

Daryl

Ms. Daryl Meyers
Executive Director



Pathways Addictions Resource Centre
250.492.0400
#1-996 Main Street
Penticton, BC V2A 5E4
www.pathwaysaddictions.ca



Pathways Addictions Resource Centre



@pathtsobriety

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