

From: [Blemings, Roxanne HLTH:EX](#)
To: [Carlson, Scott A MMHA:EX](#); [YeungThompson, Rachel HLTH:EX](#)
Subject: RE: QP summary - Monday, April 4, 2022
Date: April 4, 2022 3:57:02 PM

It's a full repeat of estimates.

From: Carlson, Scott A MMHA:EX <Scott.A.Carlson@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: April 4, 2022 3:43 PM
To: Blemings, Roxanne HLTH:EX <Roxanne.Blemings@gov.bc.ca>; YeungThompson, Rachel HLTH:EX <Rachel.YeungThompson@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: FW: QP summary - Monday, April 4, 2022

FYI, in case you hadn't seen. Lots on YSU, plus some Foundry, ICY etc today.

From: McConnan, Kelly MMHA:EX <Kelly.McConnan@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: April 4, 2022 3:31 PM
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Subject: FW: QP summary - Monday, April 4, 2022

Sharing

From: HLTH Health Issues HLTH:EX <HealthIssues@gov.bc.ca>
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Cc: HLTH Health Issues HLTH:EX <HealthIssues@gov.bc.ca>; Aitken, Hannah HLTH:EX <Hannah.Aitken@gov.bc.ca>; Bruce, Alan HLTH:EX <Alan.Bruce@gov.bc.ca>; Camp, Rachel L HLTH:EX <Rachel.Camp@gov.bc.ca>; Carrita, Sara HLTH:EX <Sara.Carrita@gov.bc.ca>; Dean-Boucher, Anthony HLTH:EX <Anthony.Dean-Boucher@gov.bc.ca>; Gamble, Suzanne H HLTH:EX <Suzanne.Gamble@gov.bc.ca>; Leung, Gwyneth HLTH:EX <Gwyneth.Leung@gov.bc.ca>; Lowey, Jasmine HLTH:EX <Jasmine.Lowey@gov.bc.ca>; Lu, Michael Q HLTH:EX <Michael.Lu@gov.bc.ca>; Marshall, Gordon HLTH:EX <Gordon.Marshall@gov.bc.ca>; McKinnon, Taylor HLTH:EX <Taylor.McKinnon@gov.bc.ca>; Obembe, Shay HLTH:EX <Shay.Obembe@gov.bc.ca>; Rendall, Daniel HLTH:EX <Daniel.Rendall@gov.bc.ca>; Schuster, Michelle M HLTH:EX <Michelle.Schuster@gov.bc.ca>; Sorely, Liam HLTH:EX <Liam.Sorely@gov.bc.ca>; Taylor, Jennifer J HLTH:EX <Jennifer.J.Taylor@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: QP summary - Monday, April 4, 2022

QP Summary: No Health related topics / MMHA related topics in blue

- Surrey – White Rock MLA Trevor Halford spoke about Directions Youth Detox. Government cut funding and they need to close. Will the Minister reverse this cut and stop the closure? Minister of Mental Health and Addictions Sheila Malcolmson responded by saying the need for mental health and addiction care that we are providing every week. We're advancing work like decriminalization and safe supply. There will be no reduction in service in any place we're adding more supports. As we're implementing our expansion of funding, health authorities do look at existing contracts and services and sometimes find there are better ways to deliver supports. The contract doesn't end until June. VCH will be hiring new employees, providing new supports, all based on consultation. One supplemental question – we've seen this before. When Pathways was defunded, there was a promise of no disruptions. Only 10% of Pathway clients registered to get help from the health authority. Why is this minister closing Directions and reducing services? Minister Malcolmson responded – we're using an evidence based approach to build a system of care. That often means looking at existing services and asking whether this is still the same way to go. This is what VCHA did. It was a social detox, not a traditional detox bed. The model of care isn't any longer aligning with current guidelines that are developed by BC Center of Substance Use. The new contract will be for other actions like hiring, wraparound support, a DTES youth outreach team, etc.
- Vancouver - Capilano MLA Karin Kirkpatrick spoke about the defunding of Directions Detox. She spoke about the impacts to young people in her community, saying a 16 year old woman would have to go to an adult facility, making her even more vulnerable. Will the minister reverse this cut and protect the youth? Minister Malcolmson responded by saying VCH has undertaken consultation and know there is need for more support for parents and caregivers

to be involved in care. Health Authorities have been directed to never let a contract like this expire without similar supports in place. We'll build different types of supports designed and directed by those who are using them. One supplemental question – many of the young street entrenched people accessing this service don't have family supports. The Minister admitted that of the youth beds announced 2 years ago, only 28 have opened. An estimated 300,000 youth need mental health and substance use services. Will the minister reverse this cut? Minister Malcolmson responded – there is nothing in our budget or government's term that could be called a cut in service. We're expanding services in every way, like doubling youth treatment beds. We're adding hundreds more.

- Saanich North and Islands Adam Olsen spoke about grown concerns about food security in BC. For Indigenous communities, this has been under threat for much longer, speaking about hunting. What actions have been taken to protect all forms of food security including the right of Indigenous people to harvest animals, plants and medicine? Minister of Agriculture and Food Lana Popham responded by saying 2 years ago we formed the BC Indigenous Advisory Council on Agriculture and Food. We're now working on an action plan that takes into account different types of food systems. One supplemental question. Minister of Forests Katrine Conroy responded.
- Vancouver – Langara MLA Michael Lee spoke about the Coroner's Death Review Panel. Now the Nuuchah-nulth tribal council is calling for more urgent action. Will minister accept the urgent timelines of the death review panel? Minister Malcolmson responded by saying the toxic drug crisis has affected every ministry in government. We've been adding services across the continuum. Supervised consumption sites, the Red Fish Health Centre, added treatment beds, hundreds of adult treatment beds, expanding prescribed safe supply. There's more to do and we're working on it every day. One supplemental question – we need immediate action. This starts with accepting the recommendations of the death review panel. They provided a blueprint with critical deadlines – by April 11 the minister must work with groups including FNHA to review the recommendations. Will the minister accept all recommendations and take the priority actions called for by April 11? Minister Malcolmson responded by saying the panel includes the people we work with every day to identify gaps in treatment recovery. The many actions identified in the report are already embedded within our overdose response plan. She spoke about coming initiatives including land based healing approaches.
- Opposition House Leader Todd Stone spoke about the need for purposeful action. The death review panel concluded what government is doing isn't working and more needs to happen. Nothing would speak stronger to our commitment than putting this action plan in place immediately. The Minister has rejected the timeline. Will she today reconsider and commit to tabling a 30-60-90 day action plan by the May 9 deadline? Minister Malcolmson responded by saying she supports the actions described in the report. To give communities a false sense of confidence that we can do in 30 days that we've been trying to do for 5 years – what would be gained? She wished she could do that
- Peace River North MLA Dan Davies said the report cited that most deaths occur in young people. Foundry is delayed, youth treatment beds haven't opened in 2 years, child and youth teams not even staffed years after being announced. Will legislation to support youth be introduced this session? Minister Malcolmson responded by saying we are expanding services for young people. There are 11 locations now, and more about to open, delayed by supply

chain issues due to the pandemic. The expansion of early psychosis interventions, ICY teams coming on board, working with Dan's Legacy and other organizations. One supplemental question – youth and families that have lost loved ones deserve action now. Here we are 2 years after Bill 22 was scrapped and there's no sign of legislation. Can the minister tell those parents why after the NDP used it as a political excuse, they have taken no action for 2 years on helping these families? Minister Malcolmson responded by disputing the member's characterization of government's actions. Safety of youth is our top priority. In the meantime we've been building up the missing pieces of continuum of care. She listed a number of initiatives to support CYMHSU.

- Kamloops – North Thompson MLA Peter Milobar spoke about the 2017 recommendations from the Coroner still outstanding. 123 promised youth treatment beds but only 28 are open. Government is falling further behind as we move from 6 to 7 deaths per day on average. When will the minister reverse this decision to defund services and actually add true capacity to the system so youth can get treatment they deserve. Minister Malcolmson responded by saying in addition to the 48 new beds, there will be another 100 that are on course to open. We have expanded early psychosis funding. We have added drug testing, closed loopholes in regulation for addiction treatment beds. We will continue to do the work every day. We are informed by those that need and use the services.

Leah Baade (she/her)

Team Lead, Risk and Issues Management

Corporate Issues & Client Relations Branch

Ministry of Health

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Grateful to live, work and learn on the traditional territories of the Ləkʷəŋən people

From: [Nelson, Tony EMBC:EX](#)
To: [Carter-Sullivan, Danielle S MMHA:EX](#); [Seymour, Amanda MMHA:EX](#); [Gardner, Gina MMHA:EX](#); [Jara, Juanita MMHA:EX](#); [Carlson, Scott A MMHA:EX](#); [Davison, Carolyn J MMHA:EX](#); [Czmielewski, Kelly MMHA:EX](#)
Subject: FW: March 31, 22 - MMHA: EOD Media Request Report
Date: April 1, 2022 8:29:36 AM

Good morning colleagues,

Flagging for reach of you MSM's upcoming tour of the North (see end of email) in June in case you haven't got wind of it yet.

Tony

From: Wong, Kendra GCPE:EX <Kendra.Wong@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: March 31, 2022 5:51 PM
To: Parisi, Jennifer GCPE:EX <Jennifer.Parisi@gov.bc.ca>; Holoiday, Leah GCPE:EX <Leah.Holoiday@gov.bc.ca>; Hooper, Tyler GCPE:EX <Tyler.Hooper@gov.bc.ca>; Khalaileh, Aygul GCPE:EX <Aygul.Khalaileh@gov.bc.ca>; Wolfe, Seamus MMHA:EX <Seamus.Wolfe@gov.bc.ca>; Newhook, Kelly MMHA:EX <Kelly.Newhook@gov.bc.ca>; Barrett, Andrew MMHA:EX <Andrew.Barrett@gov.bc.ca>; Casanova, Tamara MMHA:EX <Tamara.Casanova@gov.bc.ca>; Wiman, Holly A MMHA:EX <Holly.Wiman@gov.bc.ca>; Alagaratanam, Suhan Kumar MMHA:EX <SuhanKumar.Alagaratanam@gov.bc.ca>; Butler, Ally MMHA:EX <Ally.Butler@gov.bc.ca>; Campbell, Darrion MMHA:EX <Darrion.Campbell@gov.bc.ca>; Gardner, Kimberley MMHA:EX <Kimberley.Gardner@gov.bc.ca>; MacKenzie, Lori JERI:EX <Lori.MacKenzie@gov.bc.ca>; Massey, Christine MMHA:EX <Christine.Massey@gov.bc.ca>; McConnan, Kelly MMHA:EX <Kelly.McConnan@gov.bc.ca>; Poilievre, Tricia MMHA:EX <Tricia.Poilievre@gov.bc.ca>; Schmidt, Tracee MMHA:EX <Tracee.Schmidt@gov.bc.ca>; Sturtevant, Darryl MMHA:EX <Darryl.Sturtevant@gov.bc.ca>; Wheler, Francesca M MMHA:EX <Francesca.Wheler@gov.bc.ca>; White, Jenna MMHA:EX <Jenna.White@gov.bc.ca>; Williams, Brad M MMHA:EX <Brad.Williams@gov.bc.ca>; Nelson, Tony MMHA:EX <Tony.Nelson@gov.bc.ca>; Wong, Kendra GCPE:EX <Kendra.Wong@gov.bc.ca>; Edwards, Jack MMHA:EX <Jack.Edwards@gov.bc.ca>; Tapp, Christine MMHA:EX <Christine.Tapp@gov.bc.ca>; Van Veen, Chris MMHA:EX <Chris.VanVeen@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: March 31, 22 - MMHA: EOD Media Request Report

Hi all,

Please find below the EOD media report.

OPEN

Camille Bains - Canadian Press (BC Bureau)

ISSUE: Treatment beds for youth

STATUS: With Minister's Office

Melinda Trochu - Radio-Canada

ISSUE: Toxic drug supply

STATUS: With Program Area

CLOSED

Janella Hamilton - CBC - Vancouver

ISSUE: Youth detox centre

STATUS: Provided Statement

- Statement from Minister Sheila Malcolmson
“Nothing is more important than keeping kids safe. Our government is committed to building a comprehensive system of mental health and addictions care, including investing \$97 million through Budget 2021 for expanded mental health and substance use care for children, youth and young adults.

For the past five years, our government has been adding services and supports for our young people across the province in an unprecedented way. We know there’s much more to do and we won’t stop working until that work is done.”

Background

The Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions is committed to ensuring that all British Columbians, including our young people, have access to the substance use supports they need, when they need it.

Over the last two years, the illicit drug supply has become increasingly more toxic due to the COVID-19 pandemic. During the first months of 2020, the concentration of fentanyl detected in illicit drug deaths was between 4 and 8 percent. In the last months of 2021 this had increased to between 24 and 28 percent – a staggering increase in less than two years.

As the toxic drug crisis evolves, so must our response.

VCH is implementing a new model of withdrawal management care to support youth and their families. This realignment of resources will ensure more young people will be able to access the services when they need them. There will be no decrease in funding for youth withdrawal management services in VCH.

Budget 2021 invests \$97 million for vital services for children and youth. This includes investments to expand Foundry Virtual and add four more Foundry centres to the existing network for a total of 23 Foundry centres province-wide to provide health, mental health and wellness services for young people aged 12-24.

Our government is adding 123 new youth substance use treatment and recovery beds, with 30 of these beds already open – part of 142 publicly-funded beds operating now in B.C.

We are also expanding Integrated Child and Youth (ICY) Teams to provide wraparound mental health and substance use supports for children and youth. Five ICY teams are being implemented, and an additional 15 school districts will receive teams for a total of 20 across B.C, with over 410 new full-time workers.

Sharon Hurd - CFIS 93.1 FM (Prince George)

ISSUE: Toxic drug crisis

STATUS: Scheduled Interview

- Interview will be scheduled for June when the Minister tours the north.

Sharon Hurd - CFIS 93.1 FM (Prince George)

ISSUE: Minister Dix interview Request - Mental Health and overdose

STATUS: Scheduled Interview

- Interview will be scheduled with MSM in June during her tour of the North.