

Sasamans Society



Vision

Strengthening “Our Children” and families, in a community-driven and culturally appropriate manner.

History

Indigenous Approaches

- ▶ 2010 – 2012 Community Engagement
- ▶ Voices of our Communities
- ▶ Partnerships/collaboration
- ▶ Community reports
- ▶ Final report and theme
- ▶ Pilot Aboriginal Outreach Family Navigator
- ▶ Outcomes of pilot

Aboriginal Outreach Family Navigator (AOFN)

The Aboriginal Outreach Family Navigator provides, advocacy, support and guidance to Aboriginal families who are involved with MCFD or may be at risk of becoming involved with MCFD.

- ▶ Campbell River – Hayley Banks (Lori Bull)
- ▶ Courtenay – Aaron Thompson
- ▶ Port Hardy – Jane Watts–Ellens

Cultural Connections

The Cultural Connections Worker Role:

- ▶ Assists MCFD develop re-unification plans
- ▶ Identify children who may be able to return to family or community
- ▶ Develop culturally appropriate plans
- ▶ Develops genograms
- ▶ Draws on Elders support for family history

Rachel Cain: Campbell River

End of Indigenous Approaches

December 2013

- ▶ Contract terminated January 31st, 2014
- ▶ Impacts
- ▶ ASI

Aboriginal Youth Navigator

The Aboriginal Youth Navigator program is to provide support and guidance to aboriginal youth involved with the Ministry, youth transition planning, youth on probation, youth agreements, aging out and/or in government care.

- ▶ Courtenay – Aaron Thompson
- ▶ Campbell River – Ashley Visser

Aboriginal Harmony Circle of Elders

25 + Elders continue with their healing and training sessions.

They are now being called upon to do opening prayers, support youth, attend meetings, input into new hospitals etc.

3 Elders in Residence at the Foundry

Elders Navigator: Nicole Kitts

Collaborative Working Agreements

- ▶ First Nations Bands
- ▶ John Howard Society
- ▶ Aboriginal urban agencies

Connections

June 2017 FNHC Caucus

- Support from our members bands
- Opened doors with MCFD, Alison Bond and INAC

Cultural Planning

Partnership with Mamalilikulla First Nation and Da'naxda'xw First Nation to

- ▶ Develop a Cultural Plan template
- ▶ Develop Protocol agreements with MCFD

Aboriginal Housing Navigator

Short-term pilot contract from local MCFD

- ▶ The purpose of the Aboriginal Housing Navigator program is to create an easy literacy, informational pamphlet for indigenous families to inform them about right and responsibilities when seeking rental accommodations and assist them in understanding their rights as tenants.
- ▶ Support and educate Indigenous families to locate and secure safe housing

What's New?

Five First Nations Bands allocated their MCFD Prevention funding to our Society, which enables us to add 3 more positions

- ▶ Youth Navigator in Port Hardy, 2nd one in CR
 - ▶ Aboriginal Parent Support worker, Courtenay
- Gilakas'la to:

Mamalilikulla First Nation, Tlowitsis Tribe, Da'naxda'xw First Nation, Dzawada'enuxw First Nation and Kwikwasutinuxw Haxwa'mis Nation

Funding Sources

- ▶ Provincial MCFD Aboriginal Service Innovation
- ▶ Regional MCFD ROOTS, Cultural Connections Program
- ▶ First Nations Health Authority, Elders program
- ▶ Provincial MCFD First Nations Bands Prevention Funding (5 partner bands)
- ▶ New Relationship Trust

Reforming Child & Family Services

Suggestions:

- ▶ Fund non-delegated agencies like Sasamans and Aboriginal urban Child & Family service agencies
- ▶ More emphasis on building relationship between First Nations Bands, Aboriginal urban agencies and MCFD/DAA
- ▶ Need more Indigenous social workers in leadership positions

Gilakas'la – Thank You

- ▶ I am retiring after 25 years in this field. Its been an honor to be part of creating services that addresses the needs our Aboriginal communities and families.
- ▶ I will be mentoring Lori Bull beginning April 2018

Questions

www.sasamans.ca