**Riverstone Home/Mobile Detox/Daytox Program First Nations Outreach Team** 

FNHA Mental Health & Wellness Summit Lee Erikson, RN/RPN, BSN, MA MHSU Manager Feb. 7, 2018





#### Riverstone Home/Mobile Detox/Daytox Program

- Operating since mid 2010
- Located at Chilliwack General Hospital
- Delivers mobile detox services to clients living in east Fraser Valley communities including Mission, Abbotsford, Agassiz-Harrison, Chilliwack, Hope, Boston Bar





## **Home/Mobile Detox Model**

- Delivery of detox services in person's home community
- Harm reduction approach involving family
  and community
- Sites vary, e.g. home, family member's home, or S.T.A.R. beds if individuals do not have safe homes or a full time caregiver to provide support and monitoring during acute detox



## S.T.A.R. beds

- Short Transitional Access to Recovery beds
- Agreements in place with provincially licensed community based facilities to undergo acute detoxification (5-8 day average)
- Eligible to stay for an additional up-to-30 days stabilization period
- Opportunity to arrange for residential treatment and other post-detox care while waiting in a safe and drug free environment



## **Program Admission**

- Self referrals, ER depts, family physicians, mental health centres, inpatient units
- Creekside Medical detox in Surrey if withdrawal too severe for Riverstone home/mobile program





## Transportation

- Important aspect of providing services
- Outreach staff can transport clients to intake appointments with addiction physicians in Chilliwack, Mission, Abbotsford, and Seabird Island clinic locations
- Agreement in place with Community
  Driver agency





## **Medical Monitoring**

- Ongoing assessment and monitoring of physical and psychosocial condition is critical in home/mobile detox model
- Physician oversight is imperative to determine if client is safe to detox in a home in community, and for prescription of medications, methadone, or suboxone



#### How it works

- An RN/RPN accompanied by a Health Care Assistant visit each client daily during primary detox period (5-8 days)
- Assess physical condition and presence of withdrawal symptoms; administer medications
- Support wellness practices and comfort measures; assist with aftercare and referrals
- Educate support person in the home who stays with client between Riverstone visits







#### **Outcomes/Benefits**

- Average 400 clients admitted per year
- 22-25% are Aboriginal people mainly off reserve
- Family and partners can be involved in the process
- Services more private and better fit for each unique client
- Less stigma and labelling
- Improved access to MHSU services



#### **First Nations Outreach Model**

- Expansion of Riverstone to more specifically serve the FN communities from Mission/Abbotsford, Chilliwack, to Agassiz, Hope, both sides of the Fraser River up to Boston Bar.
- FNHA-funded dedicated FN Outreach Team added to Riverstone May 2015
- consists of one RN/RPN accompanied by a Clinical Counsellor/SW seven days per week







# **Community Engagement**

- Invitations to meet and listen to family members, elders and community leaders in the communities
- Attending ceremonies and events in communities
- Providing health talks about addiction, detox, relapse prevention, harm reduction, Take Home Naloxone
- Learning history and culture of each community, and asking questions about how Riverstone can adapt to support members ready to detox







# FN Home/Mobile Detox opportunities

- There has been an increase in numbers of clients of Aboriginal heritage referring to Riverstone from many of these FN communities
- In the last 6-9 months there have been several clients able to detox in their home community in addition to using the S.T.A.R. bed option at Kinghaven or Firth agencies.



## **After Care Connections**

- Partnering with community leaders, health care providers, families within the FN Communities
- allows the Riverstone team to reach out and help with post-detox planning and follow up support



## **Stories about Connections**

Aligning with the different cultural perspectives of healing and wellness....



# **Questions?**

