

Situational Report

The Substance Use Health Emergency - Project Executive Committee consists of Yukon government representatives and allied partners working together on a coordinated response to the territory's substance use health emergency.

Form Prepared:		Drug Toxicity Deaths: Coroner's Service: Confirmed Substance-Related Deaths:	Non-Fatal Drug/Alcohol Toxicity Events:		
Date: April 5, 2022			Hospital:		
Time: 10:45 am			Drug Poisoning ED Visits	Alcohol ED Visits	
Previous Meeting: March 10, 2022	Year-to-Date Total: 9		41	192	
	Previous Year Total: 24		200	677	
	Services:		EMS:		
	Supervised Consumption Site:	Take Home Naloxone (# distributed):	Alcohol Poisoning	Suspected Drug Poisoning:	
	Year-to-Date:	60	2862	256	120
	Previous Year:	84	3571	1257	367

Priority Issues/Flags:		Action Items:	
		What?	Who?
• Communications Strategy		RFP to be awarded	Carleen Kerr <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
• Mental Health Summit II		Format being determined	Mary Vanstone <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
• Needs Assessment for OTS		Contract being awarded	Cameron Grandy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
•			<input type="checkbox"/>
•			<input type="checkbox"/>
•			<input type="checkbox"/>
•			<input type="checkbox"/>

Communications:

- Pending new communications strategy

Current Project List			
Yukon Government Lead Initiatives			
Project Description	Project Lead	Current Status	Status Update
Prescribing safe supply through the Opioid Treatment Services (OTS) program	MWSU	Operationalized	
Development of the physician and pharmacist Community of Practice Group regarding Safe Supply	MWSU	Operationalized	
Expansion of safe supply prescribing through the Opioid Treatment Services (OTS) program	MWSU	In Progress	
Needs assessment to inform expansion of all OTS services, including safe supply, within Whitehorse and in Communities.	HSS	Planning Phase	Currently developing scope of needs assessment.
Public awareness and educational campaign addressing the toxic drug supply present in Yukon communities and Whitehorse	HSS	Ongoing	Tender in progress to an external agency to include creative (print, digital and radio) and ad placements
Renovations to the Supervised Consumption Site to allow for the use of inhalants	HPW/HSS	In Progress	Target completion late spring
Developing a renewed Opioid Action Plan	HSS	In Progress	

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Installing Brave alarms (harm reduction motion sensor alarms) at WES	HSS/SS	In Progress	
Mental Health Summit Phase I	HSS	Complete	500+ participants in a virtual format. What We Heard report is complete. Links to the webinars are on Yukon.ca
Mental Health Summit Phase II	HSS	Planning Phase	Initial Committee formed and planning session set for give date
Safe Supply and Harm Reduction Vending Machines	HSS/MWSU	In Progress	
Patient Journey Mapping	MWSU	In Progress	Two maps completed, several more in progress
Expanding prescribing capability for NPs at OTS	HSS	In Progress	
Outreach Services provided at Whitehorse Emergency Shelter (WES) and Housing First	MWSU/SS	Operationalized	Outreach Social Work Team supporting clients at WES and Housing First
Increasing OTS physician days at WES	MWSU/RCC/WES	Operationalized	Dr. Bryant runs a full day clinic at WES on Thursdays. As of March 28 th the full day clinic will also be on Mondays.
Sublocade prescribed to OTS patients	MWSU	Operationalized	Clients at the OTS clinic and at WES from outside of Whitehorse are being prescribed Sublocade as a trial for adding OTS to the communities.
Sublocade prescribed to inmates at WCC instead on Suboxone/Methadone when appropriate	Justice/WCC/MWSU	In Progress	<p>Developing care pathway to ensure appropriate handover to OTS when inmate is discharged.</p> <p>Inmates may currently be receiving and being moved to Sublocade.</p>

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Blood Ties Four Directions (BT4D)			
Knock for Naloxone campaign to get businesses and employees trained in how to use Naloxone.	BT4D	In Progress	
Increased distribution of take home fentanyl testing kits in rural communities and Whitehorse	BT4D	Operationalized	
Expanding hours of operation of the Outreach van	BT4D	Operationalized	
Yukon Hospital Corporation (YHC)			
Harm reduction supplies - presently have system where patients can register and receive supplies, but exploring if possible to make this lower barrier to access as part of a structured strategy	YHC	In Progress	
Discharge planning – making improvements to connecting patients to the right programs and services	YHC	In Progress	
Yukon Hospital Corporation is in the early stages of developing a Harm Reduction Strategy. Strategy will involve components relating to overdose prevention, infection prevention, discharge planning, partnerships with First Nations Health Programs, etc...	YHC	In Progress	YHC currently participates in harm reduction strategies in an ad hoc way. Considering the prevalence of opioid and substance use challenges within our population there is a need to be more intentional about what harm reduction services YHC offers and how we provide them.
Suboxone/methadone daily dosing - in community hospitals, partnership with local medical clinic and dispensaries to ensure access to daily witnessed doses of	YHC	Operationalized	

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OAT outside of clinic hours through emergency room			
Naloxone kits available for distribution through the ED	YHC	Operationalized	
Point of care urine drug testing- Ability to screen for UDOA and Fentanyl at point of care including at community hospitals	YHC	Operationalized	
Whitehorse General Hospital has implemented a managed alcohol program for inpatients to provide low-barrier access to care.	YHC	Operationalized	
Emergency Medical Services (EMS)			
Expand EMS hours at WES	EMS	In Progress	
Readily available drug testing strips, spectrometers	EMS	In Progress	Supplies have been ordered, will arrive in 10-12 weeks
Collaboration with BCEHS to explore best practices in prehospital care and share data and trends	EMS	In Progress	
Initiated a front line responder working group to explore strategies from a responder perspective	EMS	In Progress	
Mobile Paramedic Unit Services	EMS	In Progress	
EMS distribution of Naloxone	EMS	In Progress	
ERCO training for over the phone instructions on naloxone administration.	EMS	In Progress	
Partnership with BC with respect to intel on movement of drugs coming north through BC	EMS	Ongoing	

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Joint initiatives			
Working with Lifeguard digital health app to determine how their product could be used in the Yukon to reduce harm and prevent unintentional death.	HSS, BT4D, KDFN	In Progress	
Expanding drug testing to rural communities and increasing availability in Whitehorse	HSS, BT4D	In Progress	
Mobile Crisis Unit	RCMP, HSS	In Progress	Collaboration between RCMP and MWSU to provide joint services to mental health calls by pairing a mental health nurse team with a trained RCMP team.
Changing hours of operation at the Supervised Consumption Site	HSS, BT4D	Operationalized	
Door to door Naloxone distribution, drug testing strips and harm reduction supplies	CTFN, MWSU, BT4D	Operationalized	



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Form Prepared:		Drug Toxicity Deaths Coroner's Service:	Non-Fatal Drug/Alcohol Toxicity Events:	
Date: April 24, 2023			Hospital:	
Time: 09:30 am			Drug Poisoning ED Visits (WGH)	Alcohol ED Visits (WGH)
Previous Meeting: March 1, 2023		Year-to-Date Total: 6	58	120
		Previous Year Total: 25	140	677
	Services:		EMS:	
	Visits to Supervised Consumption Site:	Take Home Naloxone (# distributed):	Suspected Drug Poisoning	Alcohol Poisoning:
	Year-to-Date Total:	785	2343	94
Previous Year Total:	1997	7264	341	1076

Priority Issues/Flags:

Action Items:

What?

Who?

Communications:

On Monday, January 9, Christine McConnell circulated a request for input on the draft Substance Use Action Plan to all Project Executive Committee Members. The Substance Use Health Emergency Working Group would like to draw from the diverse expertise of the members of the Project Executive Committee members as a resource to provide feedback at various stages throughout the development of the plan. Please add your input to the priorities document you received and send responses to Christine.

Current Project List			
Yukon Government Lead Initiatives			
Project Description	Project Lead	Current Status	Status Update
Youth Roots: A Substance Use Prevention Gathering	Health Promotion Unit (HSS)	<p>Held November 16-17 at KDCC and via Zoom</p> <p>Questions/more info: youthroots@yukon.ca</p> <p>Video of sessions available at www.Yukon.ca/substance-use-health-emergency</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Event included people working in health promotion, education, youth recreation, research, policy, and community members from across the Yukon. Goal was to promote and support primary substance-use prevention, with an emphasis on long-term, upstream, creative approaches.
New Overdose Outreach Team/Opioid Treatment Services referral form/phone number expands outreach capacity via referrals from community partners (YHC, EMS, 405 Alexander, RCMP, others)	MWSU	Active	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MWSU started its Opioid Overdose Response team, have hired two new staff, two other new hires pending. Through Referred Care Clinic, will respond to people who have overdosed or at risk. Provides referrals, pathways to service, such as OAT or safe supply. Partners can now refer to OOT/OTS via phone/form. OOT also well connected to SCS.
Expansion of safe supply prescribing through the OTS program	MWSU	In Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> YRNA are working on their provisions to allow NPs to prescribe safe supply. Hiring is underway of additional staff to support expansion of safe supply prescribing and wraparound supports. Doubling prescribership for making this available to extend services beyond the Whitehorse RCC location.

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Needs assessment related to OTS and safe supply to gain a better understanding of drug use patterns in the territory and gaps in the provision of services to inform the expansion of OTS services, including safe supply.	MWSU	Complete	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assessment complete. Vink Consulting engaged stakeholders to inform the report.
Substance Use Strategy	HSS	In Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yukon's Substance Use Strategy is expected to be released in the coming months. Key priority areas include harm reduction, community safety, and treatment and aftercare, and prevention.
Safe Supply and Harm Reduction Vending Machines	HSS, MWSU	In Progress	
Patient Journey Mapping	MWSU	In Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Five maps completed, with several more in progress.
Expanding prescribing capability for NPs at OTS	HSS	In Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting with YRNA took place to discuss opportunities and benefits for expanding scope.
Sublocade prescribed to inmates at WCC instead of Suboxone/Methadone when appropriate	Justice, WCC, MWSU	In Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developing care pathway to ensure appropriate handover to OTS when inmate is discharged.
Public campaigns to increase awareness of services and supports available from YG and external providers, and to decrease stigma around substance use.	HSS	Active	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The SUHE comms/info working group, co-chaired by HSS, BT4D and CYFN, developed two campaigns Support is Here for You is a territory-wide campaign developed with community and health system partners to promote awareness of the many treatment, counselling and harm reduction services available for Yukoners from government and non-government organizations.

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Put the Person First is a territory-wide anti-stigma awareness campaign encouraging Yukoners to replace stigmatized language with humanizing language when discussing substance use and those who use substances, and to consider how stigma prevents Yukoners from accessing services and seeking help.
Development of the physician and pharmacist Community of Practice Group regarding Safe Supply	MWSU	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meetings take place regularly.
Outreach Services provided at 405 Alexander and Housing First	MWSU, SS	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outreach Social Work Team supporting clients at 405 Alexander and Housing First.
Sublocade prescribed to OTS patients	MWSU	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clients at the OTS clinic and at 405 Alexander from outside of Whitehorse are being prescribed Sublocade as a trial for adding OTS to the communities.
Renovations to the Supervised Consumption Site to allow for the use of inhalants	HPW, HSS	Complete	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upgrades to the Supervised Consumption Site to accommodate inhalation (smoking) as a method of drug consumption are now complete. Renovations to the ventilation system included upgrading the HVAC system and the installation of an additional window and door.
Brave alarms (harm reduction motion sensor alarms) at 405 Alexander	HSS, SS	Complete	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alarms have been installed in all single bathroom and shower stalls.
Mental Health Summits I & II	HSS	Complete	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 500+ participants in a virtual format. Links to the presentations are on Yukon.ca

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentation topics were medically-focused, in addition to harm reduction, housing, social justice, and continuum of care, among many others. Much of what was heard at the Summit focused on transitional housing and housing gaps, as well as expanding opioid and land-based treatments to communities.
Increasing OTS physician days at the 405 Alexander	MWSU, RCC	Complete	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr. Bryant runs a full day clinic at 405 Alexander on Mondays and Thursdays.
Staff education at RCC for expanding opioid agonist therapy	MWSU, RCC	Complete	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Makes it easier for people to access higher doses sooner, which includes making injectable sublocade treatment available sooner and bypassing requirement to begin with tablets.
Blood Ties Four Directions (BT4D)			
Knock for Naloxone campaign to get businesses and employees trained in how to use Naloxone.	BT4D	Ongoing	
Increased distribution of take home fentanyl testing kits in rural communities and Whitehorse	BT4D	Complete	
Expanding hours of operation of the Outreach van	BT4D	Complete	

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Yukon Hospital Corporation (YHC)			
Discharge planning – making improvements to connecting patients to the right programs and services	YHC	In Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> YHC working with MWSU ER Nurse and other MWSU team members to improve access.
YHC Harm Reduction Strategy and supplies - will involve overdose prevention, infection prevention, discharge planning, partnerships with First Nations Health Programs, etc...	YHC	In Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presently have system where patients can register and receive supplies, looking to make this lower barrier to access as part of a structured strategy. YHC working with MWSU to improve access.
Suboxone/methadone daily dosing - in community hospitals, partnership with local medical clinic and dispensaries to ensure access to daily witnessed doses of OAT outside of clinic hours through emergency room	YHC	Ongoing	
Naloxone kits available for distribution through the ED	YHC	Ongoing	
Point of care urine drug testing- Ability to screen for UDOA and Fentanyl at point of care including at community hospitals	YHC	Ongoing	
Whitehorse General Hospital has implemented a managed alcohol program for inpatients to provide low-barrier access to care.	YHC	Complete	
Emergency Medical Services (EMS)			
Readily available drug testing strips, spectrometers	EMS	In Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Drug testing with spectrometer started April 2023 at 405 Alexander and in the Paramedic Response Unit.

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Installing equipment in modified ambulance. • Specialist visiting to fully train team week of January 23. • Test strip distribution is underway. Aim is to place test strips in convenient locations. • Being distributed to PRU, 405 Alexander, several First Nations, local businesses and retail locations across YT. • Tests detect presence of many benzos and fentanyl, though not the quantity/concentration. • Developed with guidance from BC Centre for Substance Use. • Brochure offers instructions, includes QR code to online video tutorial.
Mobile Paramedic Unit Services	EMS	Underway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EMS has launched its paramedic response unit, which includes two paramedics plus one at 405 Alexander. • Mobile drug testing is a key objective. • Focused on overdose response, prevention and supporting those at high risk of substance use in downtown Whitehorse. • Collaborating HSS with Mobile Crisis team
Collaboration with BCEHS to explore best practices in prehospital care and share data and trends	EMS	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BCEHS provided YEMS access to internal data. Reviewed by EMS
Front line responder working group to explore strategies from a responder perspective	EMS	Ongoing	

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EMS distribution of Naloxone	EMS	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expanding the program with FNWLF Providing public education on Naloxone administration
Partnership with BC with respect to intel on movement of drugs coming north through BC	EMS	Ongoing	
ERCO training for over the phone instructions on naloxone administration.	EMS	Complete	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Program operational
Expand EMS hours at the 405 Alexander	EMS	Complete	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expanded hours posted
Joint initiatives			
Working with Lifeguard digital health app to determine how their product could be used in the Yukon to reduce harm and prevent unintentional death.	HSS, BT4D, KDFN	In Progress	
Expanding drug testing to rural communities and increasing availability in Whitehorse	HSS, BT4D	In Progress	
Mobile Crisis Unit (Car 867) Collaboration between RCMP and MWSU to provide joint services to mental health calls by pairing a mental health nurse team with a trained RCMP team.	RCMP, HSS	Active	Includes peace officer and mental wellness worker to conduct mental wellness check or calls where vulnerable individuals require assistance Opioid Overdose Prevention Team, Paramedic Response Unit and Car 867 will meet regularly to remain coordinated.
Changing hours of operation at the Supervised Consumption Site	HSS, BT4D	Complete	

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Door to door Naloxone distribution, drug testing strips and harm reduction supplies	CTFN, MWSU, BT4D	Complete	
Three-day on-the-land gathering of men from across the Yukon	The Nelson Project Society		The Nelson Project Society supports at-risk Indigenous and non-Indigenous men across the Yukon, Northern B.C. and other cross-boundary areas. The gathering will include a supportive employer and service fair and will provide opportunities for at-risk men to get involved.
Hives for Watson Lake	Liard First Nation, MWSUS		Uses therapeutic and mentorship beekeeping as an avenue for engaging community members in activities focused on harm reduction, mental health and life promotion, suicide prevention, life skills modeling and increased community-nature connection. Focuses on engaging clients and community members who experience barriers to accessing services in an office setting. The innovative, nature-based and culturally appropriate program will be open to all community members.
Roots of Hope Initiative Nihè dinch'è jì' wètàzul / It Is Better When You Are With Us suicide prevention training and ongoing awareness	Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Wellness Department, Roots of Hope, MWSUS	Complete/Ongoing	Suicide prevention training in Dawson City as part of Suicide Prevention Week. Project builds on community expertise to implement suicide prevention interventions tailored to local context, and develops evidence-based best practices and suicide prevention guidelines and tools. Trainings help participants learn to recognize signs when someone needs help and teaches participants how to take appropriate and sensitive action.

Yukon First Nation Initiatives

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Outreach services	Kwanlin Dün First Nation	Ongoing	Provision of safe injection equipment, safe crack kits, condoms, naloxone kits and training and community needle drop box.
First Nation-led Mental Health and Opioid Use Public Awareness Campaign	CYFN, BT4D	Ongoing	CYFN working with Blood Ties Four Directions to develop a targeted, culturally appropriate public awareness campaign about opioid use and mental health in the Yukon, to complement other ongoing campaigns.

City of Whitehorse (COW) Initiatives

Facility Signage	COW	In Progress	The City is working on placement of signage at facilities where naloxone kits are available and staff are trained in their use.
Staff training on use of Naloxone	COW	In Progress	First round completed in April and May - 33 employees trained
Public communications to raise awareness on matters related to opioids	COW	Ongoing	The City has been using its communications platforms to share partner information/public education communications materials.
Updating of Naloxone kits and review of facility placement	COW	Complete	Upgraded kits in place in various City facilities.
Creation of a Safe Work Procedure for City employees responding to an overdose	COW	Complete	Distributed to City employees and posted for use.



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Form Prepared:		Drug Toxicity Deaths Coroner's Service Confirmed Substance-Related Deaths	Non-Fatal Drug/Alcohol Toxicity Deaths:			
Date: May 3, 2022			Hospital			
Time: 2:00 pm			Drug Poisoning ED Visits	Drug Poisoning Hospitalization	Alcohol ED Visits	Alcohol Hospitalization
Previous Meeting: April 21, 2022	Year-to-Date Total:	12	55	###	261	###
	Previous Year Total:	25	200	28	677	307
Services			EMS			
Supervised Consumption Site (# of visits)		Take Home Naloxone kits (# distributed)	Drug Poisoning		Alcohol-related calls	
Year-to-Date:	102	3739	147		356	
Previous Year:	77	3571	360		1225	

Priority Issues/Flags:	Action Items:	
	What?	Who?
• Communications Strategy	Contract has been awarded	Carleen Kerr <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
• Mental Health Summit II	Format/date being determined	Mary Vanstone <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
• Needs Assessment for OTS	Contract has been awarded	Cameron Grandy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
•		<input type="checkbox"/>
•		<input type="checkbox"/>
•		<input type="checkbox"/>
•		<input type="checkbox"/>

Communications:

- Pending new communications strategy

Current Project List			
Yukon Government Lead Initiatives			
Project Description	Project Lead	Current Status	Status Update
Expansion of safe supply prescribing through the OTS program	MWSU	In Progress	
Needs assessment related to OTS and safe supply to gain a better understanding of drug use patterns in the territory and gaps in the provision of services to inform the expansion of OTS services, including safe supply.	MWSU	In Progress	Contract has been awarded to Vink Consulting. Project is underway, targeted report completion late June.
Public awareness campaign addressing the toxic drug supply present in the territory.	HSS	Ongoing	Tender awarded to Aasman Brand Communications. Targeted campaign start date in June.
Substance Use Action Plan	HSS	In Progress	
Renovations to the Supervised Consumption Site to allow for the use of inhalants	HPW, HSS	In Progress	Renovations are complete. Waiting for air quality assessment prior to opening inhalation room.
Safe Supply and Harm Reduction Vending Machines	HSS, MWSU	In Progress	
Patient Journey Mapping	MWSU	In Progress	Two maps completed, several more in progress
Expanding prescribing capability for NPs at OTS	HSS	In Progress	
Sublocade prescribed to inmates at WCC instead of Suboxone/Methadone when appropriate	Justice, WCC, MWSU	In Progress	Developing care pathway to ensure appropriate handover to OTS when inmate is discharged.
Mental Health Summit Phase II	HSS	In Progress	Planning committee formed, planning to host Phase II in Fall 2022

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Prescribing safe supply through the Opioid Treatment Services (OTS) program	MWSU	Operationalized	Hiring of additional FTEs is underway for the expansion of the delivery of OAT and safe supply medication prescribing through OTS
Development of the physician and pharmacist Community of Practice Group regarding Safe Supply	MWSU	Operationalized	
Brave alarms (harm reduction motion sensor alarms) at the Shelter	HSS, SS	Complete	Alarms have been installed in all single bathroom and shower stalls.
Mental Health Summit Phase I	HSS	Completed	500+ participants in a virtual format. What We Heard report is complete. Links to the webinars are on Yukon.ca
Outreach Services provided at the Shelter and Housing First	MWSU, SS	Operationalized	Outreach Social Work Team supporting clients at the Shelter and Housing First
Increasing OTS physician days at the Shelter	MWSU, RCC	Operationalized	Dr. Bryant runs a full day clinic at the Shelter on Mondays and Thursdays.
Sublocade prescribed to OTS patients	MWSU	Operationalized	Clients at the OTS clinic and at the Shelter from outside of Whitehorse are being prescribed Sublocade as a trial for adding OTS to the communities.
Blood Ties Four Directions (BT4D)			
Knock for Naloxone campaign to get businesses and employees trained in how to use Naloxone.	BT4D	In Progress	
Increased distribution of take home fentanyl testing kits in rural communities and Whitehorse	BT4D	Operationalized	
Expanding hours of operation of the Outreach van	BT4D	Operationalized	
Yukon Hospital Corporation (YHC)			
Harm reduction supplies	YHC	In Progress	Presently have system where patients can register and receive supplies, looking to

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			make this lower barrier to access as part of a structured strategy
Discharge planning – making improvements to connecting patients to the right programs and services	YHC	In Progress	
YHC Harm Reduction Strategy - will involve overdose prevention, infection prevention, discharge planning, partnerships with First Nations Health Programs, etc...	YHC	In Progress	
Suboxone/methadone daily dosing - in community hospitals, partnership with local medical clinic and dispensaries to ensure access to daily witnessed doses of OAT outside of clinic hours through emergency room	YHC	Operationalized	
Naloxone kits available for distribution through the ED	YHC	Operationalized	
Point of care urine drug testing- Ability to screen for UDOA and Fentanyl at point of care including at community hospitals	YHC	Operationalized	
Whitehorse General Hospital has implemented a managed alcohol program for inpatients to provide low-barrier access to care.	YHC	Operationalized	
Emergency Medical Services (EMS)			
Expand EMS hours at the Shelter	EMS	In Progress	
Readily available drug testing strips, spectrometers	EMS	In Progress	Supplies have been ordered, waiting for arrival.
Collaboration with BCEHS to explore best practices in prehospital care and share data and trends	EMS	In Progress	

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Front line responder working group to explore strategies from a responder perspective	EMS	In Progress	
Mobile Paramedic Unit Services	EMS	In Progress	
EMS distribution of Naloxone	EMS	In Progress	
ERCO training for over the phone instructions on naloxone administration.	EMS	In Progress	
Partnership with BC with respect to intel on movement of drugs coming north through BC	EMS	Ongoing	
Joint initiatives			
Working with Lifeguard digital health app to determine how their product could be used in the Yukon to reduce harm and prevent unintentional death.	HSS, BT4D, KDFN	In Progress	
Expanding drug testing to rural communities and increasing availability in Whitehorse	HSS, BT4D	In Progress	
Mobile Crisis Unit - collaboration between RCMP and MWSU to provide joint services to mental health calls by pairing a mental health nurse team with a trained RCMP team.	RCMP, HSS	In Progress	Currently interviewing for nurse positions
Changing hours of operation at the Supervised Consumption Site	HSS, BT4D	Operationalized	
Door to door Naloxone distribution, drug testing strips and harm reduction supplies	CTFN, MWSU, BT4D	Operationalized	

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Date: May 17, 2022			Hospital:		
Time: 2:30 pm			Drug Poisoning ED Visits	Alcohol ED Visits	
Previous Meeting: May 5, 2022		Year-to-Date Total: 12	60	289	
		Previous Year Total: 25	200	677	
	Services:		EMS:		
	Supervised Consumption Site:	Take Home Naloxone (# distributed):	Alcohol Poisoning	Suspected Drug Poisoning:	
	Year-to-Date:	102	3765	160	394
	Previous Year:	77	3571	360	1225

Priority Issues/Flags:	Action Items:	
	What?	Who?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communications Strategy 	Initial meeting with stakeholders took place	Carleen Kerr <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mental Health Summit II 	Logistics being determined Potential key notes speakers being identified	Mary Vanstone <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Needs Assessment for OTS 	Cassandra Vink of Vink Consulting awarded contract. Contractor has introduced herself to working group stakeholders and will begin assessment shortly.	Cameron Grandy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Communications:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nothing new to report 		

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Current Project List			
Yukon Government Lead Initiatives			
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Needs assessment related to OTS and safe supply to gain a better understanding of drug use patterns in the territory and gaps in the provision of services to inform the expansion of OTS services, including safe supply.	MWSU	In Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contract has been awarded to Vink Consulting. Consultant is now part of project committee and will connect with stakeholders. Assessment is underway, targeted report completion late June.
Public awareness campaign addressing the toxic drug supply present in the territory.	HSS	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tender awarded to Aasman Brand Communications. Targeted campaign start date in June. Working Group met with Aasman to discuss campaign Opportunities to develop complimentary streams identified by CYFN and BT4D Meeting with AR to discuss potential funding
Substance Use Action Plan	HSS	In Progress	
Renovations to the Supervised Consumption Site to allow for the use of inhalants	HPW, HSS	In Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Renovations are complete. Waiting for air quality assessment prior to opening inhalation room.
Safe Supply and Harm Reduction Vending Machines	HSS, MWSU	In Progress	
Patient Journey Mapping	MWSU	In Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Three maps completed, several more in progress
Expanding prescribing capability for NPs at OTS	HSS	In Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting with YRNA took place to discuss opportunities and benefits for expanding scope

Situational Report

Sublocade prescribed to inmates at WCC instead of Suboxone/Methadone when appropriate	Justice, WCC, MWSU	In Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developing care pathway to ensure appropriate handover to OTS when inmate is discharged.
Mental Health Summit Phase II	HSS	In Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planning committee formed Phase II in late summer or early fall 2022 Space and accommodations being sought Potential keynote speakers being identified Roster of presentations under development
Prescribing safe supply through the Opioid Treatment Services (OTS) program	MWSU	Operationalized	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hiring of additional FTEs is underway for the expansion of the delivery of OAT and safe supply medication prescribing through OTS
Development of the physician and pharmacist Community of Practice Group regarding Safe Supply	MWSU	Operationalized	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meetings take place regularly
Brave alarms (harm reduction motion sensor alarms) at the Shelter	HSS, SS	Complete	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alarms have been installed in all single bathroom and shower stalls.
Mental Health Summit Phase I	HSS	Completed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 500+ participants in a virtual format. What We Heard report is complete. Links to the webinars are on Yukon.ca
Outreach Services provided at the Shelter and Housing First	MWSU, SS	Operationalized	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outreach Social Work Team supporting clients at the Shelter and Housing First
Increasing OTS physician days at the Shelter	MWSU, RCC	Operationalized	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr. Bryant runs a full day clinic at the Shelter on Mondays and Thursdays.
Sublocade prescribed to OTS patients	MWSU	Operationalized	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clients at the OTS clinic and at the Shelter from outside of Whitehorse are being prescribed Sublocade as a

Situational Report

			trial for adding OTS to the communities.
Blood Ties Four Directions (BT4D)			
Knock for Naloxone campaign to get businesses and employees trained in how to use Naloxone.	BT4D	In Progress	
Increased distribution of take home fentanyl testing kits in rural communities and Whitehorse	BT4D	Operationalized	
Expanding hours of operation of the Outreach van	BT4D	Operationalized	
Yukon Hospital Corporation (YHC)			
Harm reduction supplies	YHC	In Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presently have system where patients can register and receive supplies, looking to make this lower barrier to access as part of a structured strategy. • YHC working with MWSU to improve access
Discharge planning – making improvements to connecting patients to the right programs and services	YHC	In Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • YHC working with MWSU ER Nurse and other MWSU team members to improve access
YHC Harm Reduction Strategy - will involve overdose prevention, infection prevention, discharge planning, partnerships with First Nations Health Programs, etc...	YHC	In Progress	
Suboxone/methadone daily dosing - in community hospitals, partnership with local medical clinic and dispensaries to ensure access to daily witnessed doses of OAT outside of clinic hours through emergency room	YHC	Operationalized	

Situational Report

Naloxone kits available for distribution through the ED	YHC	Operationalized	
Point of care urine drug testing- Ability to screen for UDOA and Fentanyl at point of care including at community hospitals	YHC	Operationalized	
Whitehorse General Hospital has implemented a managed alcohol program for inpatients to provide low-barrier access to care.	YHC	Operationalized	
Emergency Medical Services (EMS)			
Expand EMS hours at the Shelter	EMS	Operationalized	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expanded hours posted
Readily available drug testing strips, spectrometers	EMS	In Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spectrometer on order Supporting documentation developed Test strips received will be introduced to PRU, the Shelter and naloxone kits
Collaboration with BCEHS to explore best practices in prehospital care and share data and trends	EMS	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BCEHS provided YEMS access to internal data. Reviewed by EMS
Front line responder working group to explore strategies from a responder perspective	EMS	Ongoing	
Mobile Paramedic Unit Services	EMS	In Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Position with PSC/Labour relations will be posted ASAP Collaborating HSS with Mobile Crisis team
EMS distribution of Naloxone	EMS	initiated	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expanding the program with FNWLF Providing public education on Naloxone administration

Situational Report

ERCO training for over the phone instructions on naloxone administration.	EMS	Operationalized	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Program fully operational
Partnership with BC with respect to intel on movement of drugs coming north through BC	EMS	Ongoing	
Joint initiatives			
Working with Lifeguard digital health app to determine how their product could be used in the Yukon to reduce harm and prevent unintentional death.	HSS, BT4D, KDFN	In Progress	
Expanding drug testing to rural communities and increasing availability in Whitehorse	HSS, BT4D	In Progress	
Mobile Crisis Unit - collaboration between RCMP and MWSU to provide joint services to mental health calls by pairing a mental health nurse team with a trained RCMP team.	RCMP, HSS	In Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Currently interviewing for nurse positions Joint presentation at Leadership meeting occurred
Changing hours of operation at the Supervised Consumption Site	HSS, BT4D	Operationalized	
Door to door Naloxone distribution, drug testing strips and harm reduction supplies	CTFN, MWSU, BT4D	Operationalized	

HSS Substance Use Health Emergency (SUHE) Situational Report

The Substance Use Health Emergency - Project Executive Committee consists of Yukon government representatives and allied partners working together on a coordinated response to the territory's substance use health emergency.

Form Prepared:		Drug Toxicity Deaths: Coroner's Service: Confirmed Substance-Related Deaths:	Non-Fatal Drug/Alcohol Toxicity Events:		
Date: June 1, 2022			Hospital:		
Time: 1:00 pm			Drug Poisoning ED Visits	Alcohol ED Visits	
Previous Meeting: May 5, 2022		Year-to-Date Total: 12	67	325	
		Previous Year Total: 25	200	677	
	Services:		EMS:		
	Supervised Consumption Site:	Take Home Naloxone (# distributed):	Suspected Drug Poisoning	Alcohol Poisoning:	
	Year-to-Date:	146	4196	174	457
	Previous Year:	77	3571	360	1225

Priority Issues/Flags:	Action Items:	
	What?	Who?
• Communications Strategy	Initial meeting with stakeholders took place	Carleen Kerr <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
• Mental Health Summit II	Logistics being determined Potential key notes speakers being identified	Mary Vanstone <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
• Needs Assessment for OTS	Cassandra Vink of Vink Consulting awarded contract. Assessment is underway, targeted report completion late June.	Cameron Grandy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Communications:		
• Nothing new to report		

HSS Substance Use Health Emergency (SUHE) Situational Report

Current Project List			
Yukon Government Lead Initiatives			
Project Description	Project Lead	Current Status	Status Update
Expansion of safe supply prescribing through the OTS program	MWSU	In Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hiring is underway of additional staff to support expansion of safe supply prescribing and wraparound supports.
Needs assessment related to OTS and safe supply to gain a better understanding of drug use patterns in the territory and gaps in the provision of services to inform the expansion of OTS services, including safe supply.	MWSU	In Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contract has been awarded to Vink Consulting. Assessment is underway, targeted report completion late June.
Substance Use Action Plan	HSS	In Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SUHE working group is working on various initiatives and engagements to inform the action plan.
Safe Supply and Harm Reduction Vending Machines	HSS, MWSU	In Progress	
Patient Journey Mapping	MWSU	In Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Three maps completed, with several more in progress.
Expanding prescribing capability for NPs at OTS	HSS	In Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting with YRNA took place to discuss opportunities and benefits for expanding scope.
Sublocade prescribed to inmates at WCC instead of Suboxone/Methadone when appropriate	Justice, WCC, MWSU	In Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developing care pathway to ensure appropriate handover to OTS when inmate is discharged.
Mental Health Summit Phase II	HSS	In Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planning committee formed Phase II in early fall 2022 Space and accommodations being sought Potential keynote speakers being identified Roster of presentations under development

HSS Substance Use Health Emergency (SUHE) Situational Report

Public awareness campaign addressing the toxic drug supply present in the territory.	HSS	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tender awarded to Aasman Brand Communications. Targeted campaign start date summer 2022. Working Group met with Aasman to discuss campaign. Opportunities to develop complimentary streams identified by CYFN and BT4D. Meeting with AR to discuss potential funding.
Development of the physician and pharmacist Community of Practice Group regarding Safe Supply	MWSU	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meetings take place regularly.
Outreach Services provided at the Shelter and Housing First	MWSU, SS	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outreach Social Work Team supporting clients at the Shelter and Housing First.
Sublocade prescribed to OTS patients	MWSU	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clients at the OTS clinic and at the Shelter from outside of Whitehorse are being prescribed Sublocade as a trial for adding OTS to the communities.
Renovations to the Supervised Consumption Site to allow for the use of inhalants	HPW, HSS	Complete	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upgrades to the Supervised Consumption Site to accommodate inhalation (smoking) as a method of drug consumption are now complete. Renovations to the ventilation system included upgrading the HVAC system and the installation of an additional window and door.
Brave alarms (harm reduction motion sensor alarms) at the Shelter	HSS, SS	Complete	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alarms have been installed in all single bathroom and shower stalls.
Mental Health Summit Phase I	HSS	Complete	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 500+ participants in a virtual format. What We Heard report is complete. Links to the webinars are on Yukon.ca

HSS Substance Use Health Emergency (SUHE) Situational Report

Increasing OTS physician days at the Shelter	MWSU, RCC	Complete	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr. Bryant runs a full day clinic at the Shelter on Mondays and Thursdays.
Blood Ties Four Directions (BT4D)			
Knock for Naloxone campaign to get businesses and employees trained in how to use Naloxone.	BT4D	Ongoing	
Increased distribution of take home fentanyl testing kits in rural communities and Whitehorse	BT4D	Complete	
Expanding hours of operation of the Outreach van	BT4D	Complete	
Yukon Hospital Corporation (YHC)			
Harm reduction supplies	YHC	In Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presently have system where patients can register and receive supplies, looking to make this lower barrier to access as part of a structured strategy. YHC working with MWSU to improve access.
Discharge planning – making improvements to connecting patients to the right programs and services	YHC	In Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> YHC working with MWSU ER Nurse and other MWSU team members to improve access.
YHC Harm Reduction Strategy - will involve overdose prevention, infection prevention, discharge planning, partnerships with First Nations Health Programs, etc...	YHC	In Progress	
Suboxone/methadone daily dosing - in community hospitals, partnership with local medical clinic and dispensaries to ensure access to daily	YHC	Ongoing	

HSS Substance Use Health Emergency (SUHE) Situational Report

witnessed doses of OAT outside of clinic hours through emergency room			
Naloxone kits available for distribution through the ED	YHC	Ongoing	
Point of care urine drug testing- Ability to screen for UDOA and Fentanyl at point of care including at community hospitals	YHC	Ongoing	
Whitehorse General Hospital has implemented a managed alcohol program for inpatients to provide low-barrier access to care.	YHC	Complete	
Emergency Medical Services (EMS)			
Readily available drug testing strips, spectrometers	EMS	In Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spectrometer on order Supporting documentation developed Test strips received will be introduced to PRU, the Shelter and naloxone kits
Mobile Paramedic Unit Services	EMS	In Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Position with PSC/Labour relations will be posted ASAP Collaborating HSS with Mobile Crisis team
Collaboration with BCEHS to explore best practices in prehospital care and share data and trends	EMS	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BCEHS provided YEMS access to internal data. Reviewed by EMS
Front line responder working group to explore strategies from a responder perspective	EMS	Ongoing	
EMS distribution of Naloxone	EMS	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expanding the program with FNWLF Providing public education on Naloxone administration

HSS Substance Use Health Emergency (SUHE) Situational Report

Partnership with BC with respect to intel on movement of drugs coming north through BC	EMS	Ongoing	
ERCO training for over the phone instructions on naloxone administration.	EMS	Complete	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Program fully operational
Expand EMS hours at the Shelter	EMS	Complete	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expanded hours posted
Joint initiatives			
Working with Lifeguard digital health app to determine how their product could be used in the Yukon to reduce harm and prevent unintentional death.	HSS, BT4D, KDFN	In Progress	
Expanding drug testing to rural communities and increasing availability in Whitehorse	HSS, BT4D	In Progress	
Mobile Crisis Unit - collaboration between RCMP and MWSU to provide joint services to mental health calls by pairing a mental health nurse team with a trained RCMP team.	RCMP, HSS	In Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Currently interviewing for nurse positions Joint presentation at Leadership meeting occurred
Changing hours of operation at the Supervised Consumption Site	HSS, BT4D	Complete	
Door to door Naloxone distribution, drug testing strips and harm reduction supplies	CTFN, MWSU, BT4D	Complete	
Yukon First Nation Initiatives			
Outreach services	Kwanlin Dün First Nation	Ongoing	Provision of safe injection equipment, safe crack kits, condoms, naloxone kits and training and community needle drop box.
City of Whitehorse (COW) Initiatives			

HSS Substance Use Health Emergency (SUHE) Situational Report

Facility Signage	COW	In Progress	The City is working on placement of signage at facilities where naloxone kits are available and staff are trained in their use.
Staff training on use of Naloxone	COW	In Progress	First round completed in April and May - 33 employees trained
Public communications to raise awareness on matters related to opioids	COW	Ongoing	The City has been using its communications platforms to share partner information/public education communications materials.
Updating of Naloxone kits and review of facility placement	COW	Complete	Upgraded kits in place in various City facilities.
Creation of a Safe Work Procedure for City employees responding to an overdose	COW	Complete	Distributed to City employees and posted for use.

Situational Report

The Substance Use Health Emergency - Project Executive Committee consists of Yukon government representatives and allied partners working together on a coordinated response to the territory's substance use health emergency.

Form Prepared:		Drug Toxicity Deaths: Coroner's Service: Confirmed Substance-Related Deaths:	Non-Fatal Drug/Alcohol Toxicity Events:	
Date:	Time:		Hospital:	
June 30, 2022	10:30 am		Drug Poisoning ED Visits	Alcohol ED Visits
Previous Meeting: June 2, 2022		Year-to-Date Total: 12	72	404
		Previous Year Total: 25	200	677
	Services:		EMS:	
	Supervised Consumption Site:	Take Home Naloxone (# distributed):	Suspected Drug Poisoning	Alcohol Poisoning:
	Year-to-Date:	Previous Year:		
	176	4051	194	579
	77	3571	360	1225

Priority Issues/Flags:		Action Items:	
		What?	Who?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nothing new to report 			
Communications:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nothing new to report 			

Current Project List			
Yukon Government Lead Initiatives			
Project Description	Project Lead	Current Status	Status Update
Expansion of safe supply prescribing through the OTS program	MWSU	In Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hiring is underway of additional staff to support expansion of safe supply prescribing and wraparound supports.

Situational Report

Needs assessment related to OTS and safe supply to gain a better understanding of drug use patterns in the territory and gaps in the provision of services to inform the expansion of OTS services, including safe supply.	MWSU	In Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contract has been awarded to Vink Consulting. Assessment is underway, targeted report completion late July.
Substance Use Action Plan	HSS	In Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SUHE working group is working on various initiatives and engagements to inform the action plan.
Safe Supply and Harm Reduction Vending Machines	HSS, MWSU	In Progress	
Patient Journey Mapping	MWSU	In Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Three maps completed, with several more in progress.
Expanding prescribing capability for NPs at OTS	HSS	In Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting with YRNA took place to discuss opportunities and benefits for expanding scope.
Sublocade prescribed to inmates at WCC instead of Suboxone/Methadone when appropriate	Justice, WCC, MWSU	In Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developing care pathway to ensure appropriate handover to OTS when inmate is discharged.
Mental Health Summit Phase II	HSS	In Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planning committee formed Phase II in early fall 2022 Space and accommodations being sought Potential keynote speakers being identified Roster of presentations under development
Public awareness campaign addressing the toxic drug supply present in the territory.	HSS	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tender awarded to Aasman Brand Communications. Targeted campaign start date summer 2022. Working Group met with Aasman to discuss campaign. Opportunities to develop complimentary streams identified by CYFN and BT4D. Meeting with AR to discuss potential funding.

Situational Report

Development of the physician and pharmacist Community of Practice Group regarding Safe Supply	MWSU	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meetings take place regularly.
Outreach Services provided at the Shelter and Housing First	MWSU, SS	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outreach Social Work Team supporting clients at the Shelter and Housing First.
Sublocade prescribed to OTS patients	MWSU	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clients at the OTS clinic and at the Shelter from outside of Whitehorse are being prescribed Sublocade as a trial for adding OTS to the communities.
Renovations to the Supervised Consumption Site to allow for the use of inhalants	HPW, HSS	Complete	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upgrades to the Supervised Consumption Site to accommodate inhalation (smoking) as a method of drug consumption are now complete. Renovations to the ventilation system included upgrading the HVAC system and the installation of an additional window and door.
Brave alarms (harm reduction motion sensor alarms) at the Shelter	HSS, SS	Complete	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alarms have been installed in all single bathroom and shower stalls.
Mental Health Summit Phase I	HSS	Complete	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 500+ participants in a virtual format. What We Heard report is complete. Links to the webinars are on Yukon.ca
Increasing OTS physician days at the Shelter	MWSU, RCC	Complete	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr. Bryant runs a full day clinic at the Shelter on Mondays and Thursdays.
Blood Ties Four Directions (BT4D)			
Knock for Naloxone campaign to get businesses and employees trained in how to use Naloxone.	BT4D	Ongoing	

Situational Report

Increased distribution of take home fentanyl testing kits in rural communities and Whitehorse	BT4D	Complete	
Expanding hours of operation of the Outreach van	BT4D	Complete	
Yukon Hospital Corporation (YHC)			
Harm reduction supplies	YHC	In Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presently have system where patients can register and receive supplies, looking to make this lower barrier to access as part of a structured strategy. • YHC working with MWSU to improve access.
Discharge planning – making improvements to connecting patients to the right programs and services	YHC	In Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • YHC working with MWSU ER Nurse and other MWSU team members to improve access.
YHC Harm Reduction Strategy - will involve overdose prevention, infection prevention, discharge planning, partnerships with First Nations Health Programs, etc...	YHC	In Progress	
Suboxone/methadone daily dosing - in community hospitals, partnership with local medical clinic and dispensaries to ensure access to daily witnessed doses of OAT outside of clinic hours through emergency room	YHC	Ongoing	
Naloxone kits available for distribution through the ED	YHC	Ongoing	
Point of care urine drug testing- Ability to screen for UDOA and Fentanyl at point of care including at community hospitals	YHC	Ongoing	

Situational Report

Whitehorse General Hospital has implemented a managed alcohol program for inpatients to provide low-barrier access to care.	YHC	Complete	
Emergency Medical Services (EMS)			
Readily available drug testing strips, spectrometers	EMS	In Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spectrometer on order Supporting documentation developed Test strips received will be introduced to PRU, the Shelter and naloxone kits
Mobile Paramedic Unit Services	EMS	In Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Position with PSC/Labour relations will be posted ASAP Collaborating HSS with Mobile Crisis team
Collaboration with BCEHS to explore best practices in prehospital care and share data and trends	EMS	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BCEHS provided YEMS access to internal data. Reviewed by EMS
Front line responder working group to explore strategies from a responder perspective	EMS	Ongoing	
EMS distribution of Naloxone	EMS	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expanding the program with FNWLF Providing public education on Naloxone administration
Partnership with BC with respect to intel on movement of drugs coming north through BC	EMS	Ongoing	
ERCO training for over the phone instructions on naloxone administration.	EMS	Complete	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Program fully operational
Expand EMS hours at the Shelter	EMS	Complete	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expanded hours posted
Joint initiatives			

Situational Report

Working with Lifeguard digital health app to determine how their product could be used in the Yukon to reduce harm and prevent unintentional death.	HSS, BT4D, KDFN	In Progress	
Expanding drug testing to rural communities and increasing availability in Whitehorse	HSS, BT4D	In Progress	
Mobile Crisis Unit - collaboration between RCMP and MWSU to provide joint services to mental health calls by pairing a mental health nurse team with a trained RCMP team.	RCMP, HSS	In Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Currently interviewing for nurse positions Joint presentation at Leadership meeting occurred
Changing hours of operation at the Supervised Consumption Site	HSS, BT4D	Complete	
Door to door Naloxone distribution, drug testing strips and harm reduction supplies	CTFN, MWSU, BT4D	Complete	

Yukon First Nation Initiatives

Outreach services	Kwanlin Dün First Nation	Ongoing	Provision of safe injection equipment, safe crack kits, condoms, naloxone kits and training and community needle drop box.
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City of Whitehorse (COW) Initiatives

Facility Signage	COW	In Progress	The City is working on placement of signage at facilities where naloxone kits are available and staff are trained in their use.
Staff training on use of Naloxone	COW	In Progress	First round completed in April and May - 33 employees trained
Public communications to raise awareness on matters related to opioids	COW	Ongoing	The City has been using its communications platforms to share partner information/public education communications materials.

Situational Report

Updating of Naloxone kits and review of facility placement	COW	Complete	Upgraded kits in place in various City facilities.
Creation of a Safe Work Procedure for City employees responding to an overdose	COW	Complete	Distributed to City employees and posted for use.

Situational Report

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Time: 10:30 am			Drug Poisoning ED Visits	Alcohol ED Visits	
Previous Meeting: June 2, 2022		Year-to-Date Total: 12	72	404	
		Previous Year Total: 25	200	677	
	Services:		EMS:		
	Supervised Consumption Site:	Take Home Naloxone (# distributed):	Suspected Drug Poisoning	Alcohol Poisoning:	
	Year-to-Date:	322	4251	194	579
	Previous Year:	77	3571	360	1225

Priority Issues/Flags:		Action Items:	
		What?	Who?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nothing new to report 			
Communications:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nothing new to report 			

Current Project List			
Yukon Government Lead Initiatives			
Project Description	Project Lead	Current Status	Status Update
Expansion of safe supply prescribing through the OTS program	MWSU	In Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hiring is underway of additional staff to support expansion of safe supply prescribing and wraparound supports.

Situational Report

Needs assessment related to OTS and safe supply to gain a better understanding of drug use patterns in the territory and gaps in the provision of services to inform the expansion of OTS services, including safe supply.	MWSU	In Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contract has been awarded to Vink Consulting. Assessment is underway, targeted report completion late July.
Substance Use Action Plan	HSS	In Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SUHE working group is working on various initiatives and engagements to inform the action plan.
Safe Supply and Harm Reduction Vending Machines	HSS, MWSU	In Progress	
Patient Journey Mapping	MWSU	In Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Three maps completed, with several more in progress.
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Mental Health Summit Phase II	HSS	In Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planning committee formed Phase II in early fall 2022 Space and accommodations being sought Potential keynote speakers being identified Roster of presentations under development
Public awareness campaign addressing the toxic drug supply present in the territory.	HSS	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tender awarded to Aasman Brand Communications. Targeted campaign start date summer 2022. Working Group met with Aasman to discuss campaign. Opportunities to develop complimentary streams identified by CYFN and BT4D. Meeting with AR to discuss potential funding.

Situational Report

Development of the physician and pharmacist Community of Practice Group regarding Safe Supply	MWSU	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meetings take place regularly.
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Mental Health Summit Phase I	HSS	Complete	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 500+ participants in a virtual format. What We Heard report is complete. Links to the webinars are on Yukon.ca
Increasing OTS physician days at the Shelter	MWSU, RCC	Complete	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr. Bryant runs a full day clinic at the Shelter on Mondays and Thursdays.
Blood Ties Four Directions (BT4D)			
Knock for Naloxone campaign to get businesses and employees trained in how to use Naloxone.	BT4D	Ongoing	

Situational Report

Increased distribution of take home fentanyl testing kits in rural communities and Whitehorse	BT4D	Complete	
Expanding hours of operation of the Outreach van	BT4D	Complete	
Yukon Hospital Corporation (YHC)			
Harm reduction supplies	YHC	In Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presently have system where patients can register and receive supplies, looking to make this lower barrier to access as part of a structured strategy. YHC working with MWSU to improve access.
Discharge planning – making improvements to connecting patients to the right programs and services	YHC	In Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> YHC working with MWSU ER Nurse and other MWSU team members to improve access.
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Point of care urine drug testing- Ability to screen for UDOA and Fentanyl at point of care including at community hospitals	YHC	Ongoing	

Situational Report

Whitehorse General Hospital has implemented a managed alcohol program for inpatients to provide low-barrier access to care.	YHC	Complete	
Emergency Medical Services (EMS)			
Readily available drug testing strips, spectrometers	EMS	In Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spectrometer on order Supporting documentation developed Test strips received will be introduced to PRU, the Shelter and naloxone kits
Mobile Paramedic Unit Services	EMS	In Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Position with PSC/Labour relations will be posted ASAP Collaborating HSS with Mobile Crisis team
Collaboration with BCEHS to explore best practices in prehospital care and share data and trends	EMS	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BCEHS provided YEMS access to internal data. Reviewed by EMS
Front line responder working group to explore strategies from a responder perspective	EMS	Ongoing	
EMS distribution of Naloxone	EMS	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expanding the program with FNWLF Providing public education on Naloxone administration
Partnership with BC with respect to intel on movement of drugs coming north through BC	EMS	Ongoing	
ERCO training for over the phone instructions on naloxone administration.	EMS	Complete	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Program fully operational
Expand EMS hours at the Shelter	EMS	Complete	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expanded hours posted
Joint initiatives			

Situational Report

Working with Lifeguard digital health app to determine how their product could be used in the Yukon to reduce harm and prevent unintentional death.	HSS, BT4D, KDFN	In Progress	
Expanding drug testing to rural communities and increasing availability in Whitehorse	HSS, BT4D	In Progress	
Mobile Crisis Unit - collaboration between RCMP and MWSU to provide joint services to mental health calls by pairing a mental health nurse team with a trained RCMP team.	RCMP, HSS	In Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Currently interviewing for nurse positions Joint presentation at Leadership meeting occurred
Changing hours of operation at the Supervised Consumption Site	HSS, BT4D	Complete	
Door to door Naloxone distribution, drug testing strips and harm reduction supplies	CTFN, MWSU, BT4D	Complete	

Yukon First Nation Initiatives

Outreach services	Kwanlin Dün First Nation	Ongoing	Provision of safe injection equipment, safe crack kits, condoms, naloxone kits and training and community needle drop box.
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City of Whitehorse (COW) Initiatives

Facility Signage	COW	In Progress	The City is working on placement of signage at facilities where naloxone kits are available and staff are trained in their use.
Staff training on use of Naloxone	COW	In Progress	First round completed in April and May - 33 employees trained
Public communications to raise awareness on matters related to opioids	COW	Ongoing	The City has been using its communications platforms to share partner information/public education communications materials.

Situational Report

Updating of Naloxone kits and review of facility placement	COW	Complete	Upgraded kits in place in various City facilities.
Creation of a Safe Work Procedure for City employees responding to an overdose	COW	Complete	Distributed to City employees and posted for use.

Situational Report

The Substance Use Health Emergency - Project Executive Committee consists of Yukon government representatives and allied partners working together on a coordinated response to the territory's substance use health emergency.

Form Prepared:		Drug Toxicity Deaths: Coroner's Service: Confirmed Substance-Related Deaths:	Non-Fatal Drug/Alcohol Toxicity Events:	
Date: July 29, 2022			Hospital:	
Time: 3:30 am			Drug Poisoning ED Visits	Alcohol ED Visits
Previous Meeting: June 2, 2022		Year-to-Date Total: 12	83	457
		Previous Year Total: 25	200	677
	Services:		EMS:	
	Supervised Consumption Site:	Take Home Naloxone (# distributed):	Suspected Drug Poisoning	Alcohol Poisoning:
	322	4251	218	672
	77	3571	360	1225

Priority Issues/Flags:	Action Items:	
	What?	Who?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nothing new to report 		
Communications:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nothing new to report 		

Current Project List			
Yukon Government Lead Initiatives			
Project Description	Project Lead	Current Status	Status Update
New Overdose Outreach Team/Opioid Treatment Services referral form/phone number expands outreach capacity via referrals from	MWSU	Active July 25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Helps identify individuals at high risk of overdose (or who have recently overdosed). Partners can now refer to OOT/OTS via

Situational Report

community partners (YHC, EMS, WES, RCMP, others)			phone/form. OOT also well connected to SCS.
Expansion of safe supply prescribing through the OTS program	MWSU	In Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hiring is underway of additional staff to support expansion of safe supply prescribing and wraparound supports. There have been significant delays and challenges with hiring. While hiring for the new FTEs, other vacancies have come up, leaving new gaps. Two new Outreach LPNs have been hired so far.
Needs assessment related to OTS and safe supply to gain a better understanding of drug use patterns in the territory and gaps in the provision of services to inform the expansion of OTS services, including safe supply.	MWSU	In Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contract has been awarded to Vink Consulting. Assessment is underway; consultant is engaging stakeholders to inform the report.
Substance Use Action Plan	HSS	In Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SUHE working group is working on various initiatives and engagements to inform the action plan.
Safe Supply and Harm Reduction Vending Machines	HSS, MWSU	In Progress	
Patient Journey Mapping	MWSU	In Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Three maps completed, with several more in progress.
Expanding prescribing capability for NPs at OTS	HSS	In Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting with YRNA took place to discuss opportunities and benefits for expanding scope.
Sublocade prescribed to inmates at WCC instead of Suboxone/Methadone when appropriate	Justice, WCC, MWSU	In Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developing care pathway to ensure appropriate handover to OTS when inmate is discharged.
Mental Health Summit Phase II	HSS	In Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planning committee formed Phase II in early fall 2022 Space and accommodations being sought Potential keynote speakers being identified

Situational Report

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Roster of presentations under development
Public awareness campaign addressing the toxic drug supply present in the territory.	HSS	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tender awarded to Aasman Brand Communications. Targeted campaign start date summer 2022. Working Group met with Aasman to discuss campaign. Opportunities to develop complimentary streams identified by CYFN and BT4D. Meeting with AR to discuss potential funding.
Development of the physician and pharmacist Community of Practice Group regarding Safe Supply	MWSU	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meetings take place regularly.
Outreach Services provided at the Shelter and Housing First	MWSU, SS	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outreach Social Work Team supporting clients at the Shelter and Housing First.
Sublocade prescribed to OTS patients	MWSU	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clients at the OTS clinic and at the Shelter from outside of Whitehorse are being prescribed Sublocade as a trial for adding OTS to the communities.
Renovations to the Supervised Consumption Site to allow for the use of inhalants	HPW, HSS	Complete	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upgrades to the Supervised Consumption Site to accommodate inhalation (smoking) as a method of drug consumption are now complete. Renovations to the ventilation system included upgrading the HVAC system and the installation of an additional window and door.
Brave alarms (harm reduction motion sensor alarms) at the Shelter	HSS, SS	Complete	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alarms have been installed in all single bathroom and shower stalls.
Mental Health Summit Phase I	HSS	Complete	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 500+ participants in a virtual format. What We Heard report is complete.

Situational Report

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Links to the webinars are on Yukon.ca
Increasing OTS physician days at the Shelter	MWSU, RCC	Complete	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr. Bryant runs a full day clinic at the Shelter on Mondays and Thursdays.
Blood Ties Four Directions (BT4D)			
Knock for Naloxone campaign to get businesses and employees trained in how to use Naloxone.	BT4D	Ongoing	
Increased distribution of take home fentanyl testing kits in rural communities and Whitehorse	BT4D	Complete	
Expanding hours of operation of the Outreach van	BT4D	Complete	
Yukon Hospital Corporation (YHC)			
Harm reduction supplies	YHC	In Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presently have system where patients can register and receive supplies, looking to make this lower barrier to access as part of a structured strategy. YHC working with MWSU to improve access.
Discharge planning – making improvements to connecting patients to the right programs and services	YHC	In Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> YHC working with MWSU ER Nurse and other MWSU team members to improve access.
YHC Harm Reduction Strategy - will involve overdose prevention, infection prevention, discharge planning, partnerships with First Nations Health Programs, etc...	YHC	In Progress	
Suboxone/methadone daily dosing - in community hospitals, partnership with local medical clinic and	YHC	Ongoing	

Situational Report

dispensaries to ensure access to daily witnessed doses of OAT outside of clinic hours through emergency room			
Naloxone kits available for distribution through the ED	YHC	Ongoing	
Point of care urine drug testing- Ability to screen for UDOA and Fentanyl at point of care including at community hospitals	YHC	Ongoing	
Whitehorse General Hospital has implemented a managed alcohol program for inpatients to provide low-barrier access to care.	YHC	Complete	
Emergency Medical Services (EMS)			
Readily available drug testing strips, spectrometers	EMS	In Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spectrometer on order • Supporting documentation developed • Test strips received will be introduced to PRU, the Shelter and naloxone kits
Mobile Paramedic Unit Services	EMS	In Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Position with PSC/Labour relations will be posted ASAP • Collaborating HSS with Mobile Crisis team
Collaboration with BCEHS to explore best practices in prehospital care and share data and trends	EMS	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BCEHS provided YEMS access to internal data. Reviewed by EMS
Front line responder working group to explore strategies from a responder perspective	EMS	Ongoing	
EMS distribution of Naloxone	EMS	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expanding the program with FNWLF • Providing public education on Naloxone administration

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Partnership with BC with respect to intel on movement of drugs coming north through BC	EMS	Ongoing	
ERCO training for over the phone instructions on naloxone administration.	EMS	Complete	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Program fully operational
Expand EMS hours at the Shelter	EMS	Complete	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expanded hours posted
Joint initiatives			
Working with Lifeguard digital health app to determine how their product could be used in the Yukon to reduce harm and prevent unintentional death.	HSS, BT4D, KDFN	In Progress	
Expanding drug testing to rural communities and increasing availability in Whitehorse	HSS, BT4D	In Progress	
Mobile Crisis Unit - collaboration between RCMP and MWSU to provide joint services to mental health calls by pairing a mental health nurse team with a trained RCMP team.	RCMP, HSS	In Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Currently interviewing for nurse positions Joint presentation at Leadership meeting occurred
Changing hours of operation at the Supervised Consumption Site	HSS, BT4D	Complete	
Door to door Naloxone distribution, drug testing strips and harm reduction supplies	CTFN, MWSU, BT4D	Complete	
Yukon First Nation Initiatives			
Outreach services	Kwanlin Dün First Nation	Ongoing	Provision of safe injection equipment, safe crack kits, condoms, naloxone kits and training and community needle drop box.
City of Whitehorse (COW) Initiatives			

Situational Report

Facility Signage	COW	In Progress	The City is working on placement of signage at facilities where naloxone kits are available and staff are trained in their use.
Staff training on use of Naloxone	COW	In Progress	First round completed in April and May - 33 employees trained
Public communications to raise awareness on matters related to opioids	COW	Ongoing	The City has been using its communications platforms to share partner information/public education communications materials.
Updating of Naloxone kits and review of facility placement	COW	Complete	Upgraded kits in place in various City facilities.
Creation of a Safe Work Procedure for City employees responding to an overdose	COW	Complete	Distributed to City employees and posted for use.

HSS Substance Use Health Emergency (SUHE) Situational Report

The Substance Use Health Emergency - Project Executive Committee consists of Yukon government representatives and allied partners working together on a coordinated response to the territory's substance use health emergency.

Form Prepared:		Drug Toxicity Deaths: Coroner's Service: Confirmed Substance-Related Deaths:	Non-Fatal Drug/Alcohol Toxicity Events:	
Date: August 5, 2022			Hospital:	
Time: 10:00 am			Drug Poisoning ED Visits	Alcohol ED Visits
Previous Meeting: June 2, 2022		Year-to-Date Total: 17	83	457
		Previous Year Total: 25	200	677
	Services:		EMS:	
	Supervised Consumption Site:	Take Home Naloxone (# distributed):	Suspected Drug Poisoning	Alcohol Poisoning:
	697	4915	222	686
	77	3571	360	1225

Priority Issues/Flags:	Action Items:	
	What?	Who?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nothing new to report 		

Communications:

- Yukon's Chief Coroner [called for an inquest](#) into two deaths at the WES (Aug. 5).
- Yukon's Chief Coroner [provided a service update](#) on deaths due to toxic or illicit drugs (Aug. 5).
- A Substance Use Health Emergency communications working group is developing an information campaign and webpage that will list all mental wellness and substance use resources and services available in YT from both government and non-government organizations.

HSS Substance Use Health Emergency (SUHE) Situational Report

Current Project List			
Yukon Government Lead Initiatives			
Project Description	Project Lead	Current Status	Status Update
New Overdose Outreach Team/Opioid Treatment Services referral form/phone number expands outreach capacity via referrals from community partners (YHC, EMS, WES, RCMP, others)	MWSU	Active July 25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Helps identify individuals at high risk of overdose (or who have recently overdosed). Partners can now refer to OOT/OTS via phone/form. OOT also well connected to SCS.
Expansion of safe supply prescribing through the OTS program	MWSU	In Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hiring is underway of additional staff to support expansion of safe supply prescribing and wraparound supports. There have been significant delays and challenges with hiring. While hiring for the new FTEs, other vacancies have come up, leaving new gaps. Two new Outreach LPNs have been hired so far.
Needs assessment related to OTS and safe supply to gain a better understanding of drug use patterns in the territory and gaps in the provision of services to inform the expansion of OTS services, including safe supply.	MWSU	In Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contract has been awarded to Vink Consulting. Assessment is underway; consultant is engaging stakeholders to inform the report.
Substance Use Action Plan	HSS	In Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SUHE working group is working on various initiatives and engagements to inform the action plan.
Safe Supply and Harm Reduction Vending Machines	HSS, MWSU	In Progress	
Patient Journey Mapping	MWSU	In Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Three maps completed, with several more in progress.
Expanding prescribing capability for NPs at OTS	HSS	In Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting with YRNA took place to discuss opportunities and benefits for expanding scope.

HSS Substance Use Health Emergency (SUHE) Situational Report

Sublocade prescribed to inmates at WCC instead of Suboxone/Methadone when appropriate	Justice, WCC, MWSU	In Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developing care pathway to ensure appropriate handover to OTS when inmate is discharged.
Mental Health Summit Phase II	HSS	In Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planning committee formed Phase II in early fall 2022 Space and accommodations being sought Potential keynote speakers being identified Roster of presentations under development
Public awareness campaign addressing the toxic drug supply present in the territory.	HSS	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tender awarded to Aasman Brand Communications. Targeted campaign start date summer 2022. Working Group met with Aasman to discuss campaign. Opportunities to develop complimentary streams identified by CYFN and BT4D. Meeting with AR to discuss potential funding.
Development of the physician and pharmacist Community of Practice Group regarding Safe Supply	MWSU	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meetings take place regularly.
Outreach Services provided at the Shelter and Housing First	MWSU, SS	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outreach Social Work Team supporting clients at the Shelter and Housing First.
Sublocade prescribed to OTS patients	MWSU	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clients at the OTS clinic and at the Shelter from outside of Whitehorse are being prescribed Sublocade as a trial for adding OTS to the communities.
Renovations to the Supervised Consumption Site to allow for the use of inhalants	HPW, HSS	Complete	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upgrades to the Supervised Consumption Site to accommodate inhalation (smoking) as a method of drug consumption are now complete. Renovations to the ventilation system included upgrading the

HSS Substance Use Health Emergency (SUHE) Situational Report

			HVAC system and the installation of an additional window and door.
Brave alarms (harm reduction motion sensor alarms) at the Shelter	HSS, SS	Complete	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alarms have been installed in all single bathroom and shower stalls.
Mental Health Summit Phase I	HSS	Complete	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 500+ participants in a virtual format. What We Heard report is complete. Links to the webinars are on Yukon.ca
Increasing OTS physician days at the Shelter	MWSU, RCC	Complete	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr. Bryant runs a full day clinic at the Shelter on Mondays and Thursdays.
Blood Ties Four Directions (BT4D)			
Knock for Naloxone campaign to get businesses and employees trained in how to use Naloxone.	BT4D	Ongoing	
Increased distribution of take home fentanyl testing kits in rural communities and Whitehorse	BT4D	Complete	
Expanding hours of operation of the Outreach van	BT4D	Complete	
Yukon Hospital Corporation (YHC)			
Harm reduction supplies	YHC	In Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presently have system where patients can register and receive supplies, looking to make this lower barrier to access as part of a structured strategy. YHC working with MWSU to improve access.
Discharge planning – making improvements to connecting patients to the right programs and services	YHC	In Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> YHC working with MWSU ER Nurse and other MWSU team members to improve access.

HSS Substance Use Health Emergency (SUHE) Situational Report

YHC Harm Reduction Strategy - will involve overdose prevention, infection prevention, discharge planning, partnerships with First Nations Health Programs, etc...	YHC	In Progress	
Suboxone/methadone daily dosing - in community hospitals, partnership with local medical clinic and dispensaries to ensure access to daily witnessed doses of OAT outside of clinic hours through emergency room	YHC	Ongoing	
Naloxone kits available for distribution through the ED	YHC	Ongoing	
Point of care urine drug testing- Ability to screen for UDOA and Fentanyl at point of care including at community hospitals	YHC	Ongoing	
Whitehorse General Hospital has implemented a managed alcohol program for inpatients to provide low-barrier access to care.	YHC	Complete	
Emergency Medical Services (EMS)			
Readily available drug testing strips, spectrometers	EMS	In Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spectrometer on order • Supporting documentation developed • Test strips received will be introduced to PRU, the Shelter and naloxone kits
Mobile Paramedic Unit Services	EMS	In Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Position with PSC/Labour relations will be posted ASAP • Collaborating HSS with Mobile Crisis team

HSS Substance Use Health Emergency (SUHE) Situational Report

Collaboration with BCEHS to explore best practices in prehospital care and share data and trends	EMS	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BCEHS provided YEMS access to internal data. Reviewed by EMS
Front line responder working group to explore strategies from a responder perspective	EMS	Ongoing	
EMS distribution of Naloxone	EMS	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expanding the program with FNWLF Providing public education on Naloxone administration
Partnership with BC with respect to intel on movement of drugs coming north through BC	EMS	Ongoing	
ERCO training for over the phone instructions on naloxone administration.	EMS	Complete	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Program fully operational
Expand EMS hours at the Shelter	EMS	Complete	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expanded hours posted
Joint initiatives			
Working with Lifeguard digital health app to determine how their product could be used in the Yukon to reduce harm and prevent unintentional death.	HSS, BT4D, KDFN	In Progress	
Expanding drug testing to rural communities and increasing availability in Whitehorse	HSS, BT4D	In Progress	
Mobile Crisis Unit - collaboration between RCMP and MWSU to provide joint services to mental health calls by pairing a mental health nurse team with a trained RCMP team.	RCMP, HSS	In Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Currently interviewing for nurse positions Joint presentation at Leadership meeting occurred
Changing hours of operation at the Supervised Consumption Site	HSS, BT4D	Complete	

HSS Substance Use Health Emergency (SUHE) Situational Report

Door to door Naloxone distribution, drug testing strips and harm reduction supplies	CTFN, MWSU, BT4D	Complete	
Yukon First Nation Initiatives			
Outreach services	Kwanlin Dün First Nation	Ongoing	Provision of safe injection equipment, safe crack kits, condoms, naloxone kits and training and community needle drop box.
City of Whitehorse (COW) Initiatives			
Facility Signage	COW	In Progress	The City is working on placement of signage at facilities where naloxone kits are available and staff are trained in their use.
Staff training on use of Naloxone	COW	In Progress	First round completed in April and May - 33 employees trained
Public communications to raise awareness on matters related to opioids	COW	Ongoing	The City has been using its communications platforms to share partner information/public education communications materials.
Updating of Naloxone kits and review of facility placement	COW	Complete	Upgraded kits in place in various City facilities.
Creation of a Safe Work Procedure for City employees responding to an overdose	COW	Complete	Distributed to City employees and posted for use.

HSS Substance Use Health Emergency (SUHE) Situational Report

The Substance Use Health Emergency - Project Executive Committee consists of Yukon government representatives and allied partners working together on a coordinated response to the territory's substance use health emergency.

Form Prepared:		Drug Toxicity Deaths: Coroner's Service: Confirmed Substance-Related Deaths:		Non-Fatal Drug/Alcohol Toxicity Events:	
Date: August 31, 2022				Hospital:	
Time: 4:00 pm				Drug Poisoning ED Visits	Alcohol ED Visits
Previous Meeting: July 28, 2022		Year-to-Date Total: 19	94	528	
		Previous Year Total: 25	200	677	
	Services:		EMS:		
	Supervised Consumption Site:	Take Home Naloxone (# distributed):	Suspected Drug Poisoning	Alcohol Poisoning:	
	Year-to-Date:	1420	5630	241	787
	Previous Year:	77	3571	360	1225

Priority Issues/Flags:	Action Items:	
	What?	Who?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supervised Consumption visits reflect total since opening Fall 2021. 		
Communications:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mental Wellness Summit scheduled for Sept. 21-23, more details below. A Substance Use Health Emergency communications working group is developing a webpage and brochure that will list all mental wellness and substance use resources and services available in territory from government and non-government organizations. This group met August 31 and aims to have these products in market in September. 		

HSS Substance Use Health Emergency (SUHE) Situational Report

Current Project List			
Yukon Government Lead Initiatives			
Project Description	Project Lead	Current Status	Status Update
New Overdose Outreach Team/Opioid Treatment Services referral form/phone number expands outreach capacity via referrals from community partners (YHC, EMS, WES, RCMP, others)	MWSU	Active July 25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MWSU started its Opioid Overdose Response team, have hired two new staff, two other new hires pending. Through Referred Care Clinic, will respond to people who have overdosed or at risk. Provides referrals, pathways to service, such as OAT or safe supply. Partners can now refer to OOT/OTS via phone/form. OOT also well connected to SCS.
Expansion of safe supply prescribing through the OTS program	MWSU	In Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> YRNA are working on their provisions to allow NPs to prescribe safe supply. Hiring is underway of additional staff to support expansion of safe supply prescribing and wraparound supports. Doubling prescribership for making this available – three doctor days – can extend services beyond the RCC location.
Needs assessment related to OTS and safe supply to gain a better understanding of drug use patterns in the territory and gaps in the provision of services to inform the expansion of OTS services, including safe supply.	MWSU	In Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contract has been awarded to Vink Consulting. Assessment is underway; consultant is engaging stakeholders to inform the report.
Substance Use Action Plan	HSS	In Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Substance Use Health Emergency Working Group is comprised of representatives from Population and Public Health, HSS Strategic Policy and Planning and MWSU.

HSS Substance Use Health Emergency (SUHE) Situational Report

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This group is developing a Substance Use Action Plan, including an implementation plan and performance measurement indicators, in partnership with YG and non-YG partners. Plan will be informed by the results of past and ongoing engagements with PWLLE and stakeholders. Will share the draft action plan goals with the Project Executive Committee meeting in the coming weeks, seeking input from members of this group.
Safe Supply and Harm Reduction Vending Machines	HSS, MWSU	In Progress	
Patient Journey Mapping	MWSU	In Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Three maps completed, with several more in progress.
Expanding prescribing capability for NPs at OTS	HSS	In Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting with YRNA took place to discuss opportunities and benefits for expanding scope.
Sublocade prescribed to inmates at WCC instead of Suboxone/Methadone when appropriate	Justice, WCC, MWSU	In Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developing care pathway to ensure appropriate handover to OTS when inmate is discharged.
Mental Health Summit Phase II being held September 21-23 in partnership with CYFN	HSS	In Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Have secured a wide range of speakers on a variety of topics relating to mental wellness and substance use Invitations being sent out, schedule and list of speakers will also likely be this week. Two of the keynote speakers will be doing public evening presentations at the Beringia Centre. Keynotes will be livestreamed, other presentations will be filmed and then posted online. Some speakers will visit and speak in communities.

HSS Substance Use Health Emergency (SUHE) Situational Report

Public awareness campaign addressing the toxic drug supply present in the territory.	HSS	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tender awarded to Aasman Brand Communications. Targeted campaign start date summer 2022. Working Group met with Aasman to discuss campaign. Opportunities to develop complimentary streams identified by CYFN and BT4D. Meeting with AR to discuss potential funding.
Development of the physician and pharmacist Community of Practice Group regarding Safe Supply	MWSU	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meetings take place regularly.
Outreach Services provided at the Shelter and Housing First	MWSU, SS	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outreach Social Work Team supporting clients at the Shelter and Housing First.
Sublocade prescribed to OTS patients	MWSU	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clients at the OTS clinic and at the Shelter from outside of Whitehorse are being prescribed Sublocade as a trial for adding OTS to the communities.
Renovations to the Supervised Consumption Site to allow for the use of inhalants	HPW, HSS	Complete	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upgrades to the Supervised Consumption Site to accommodate inhalation (smoking) as a method of drug consumption are now complete. Renovations to the ventilation system included upgrading the HVAC system and the installation of an additional window and door.
Brave alarms (harm reduction motion sensor alarms) at the Shelter	HSS, SS	Complete	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alarms have been installed in all single bathroom and shower stalls.
Mental Health Summit Phase I	HSS	Complete	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 500+ participants in a virtual format. What We Heard report is complete. Links to the webinars are on Yukon.ca

HSS Substance Use Health Emergency (SUHE) Situational Report

Increasing OTS physician days at the Shelter	MWSU, RCC	Complete	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr. Bryant runs a full day clinic at the Shelter on Mondays and Thursdays.
Blood Ties Four Directions (BT4D)			
Knock for Naloxone campaign to get businesses and employees trained in how to use Naloxone.	BT4D	Ongoing	
Increased distribution of take home fentanyl testing kits in rural communities and Whitehorse	BT4D	Complete	
Expanding hours of operation of the Outreach van	BT4D	Complete	
Yukon Hospital Corporation (YHC)			
Harm reduction supplies	YHC	In Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presently have system where patients can register and receive supplies, looking to make this lower barrier to access as part of a structured strategy. YHC working with MWSU to improve access.
Discharge planning – making improvements to connecting patients to the right programs and services	YHC	In Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> YHC working with MWSU ER Nurse and other MWSU team members to improve access.
YHC Harm Reduction Strategy - will involve overdose prevention, infection prevention, discharge planning, partnerships with First Nations Health Programs, etc...	YHC	In Progress	
Suboxone/methadone daily dosing - in community hospitals, partnership with local medical clinic and dispensaries to ensure access to daily	YHC	Ongoing	

HSS Substance Use Health Emergency (SUHE) Situational Report

witnessed doses of OAT outside of clinic hours through emergency room			
Naloxone kits available for distribution through the ED	YHC	Ongoing	
Point of care urine drug testing- Ability to screen for UDOA and Fentanyl at point of care including at community hospitals	YHC	Ongoing	
Whitehorse General Hospital has implemented a managed alcohol program for inpatients to provide low-barrier access to care.	YHC	Complete	
Emergency Medical Services (EMS)			
Readily available drug testing strips, spectrometers	EMS	In Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spectrometer on order Supporting documentation developed Test strips received will be introduced to PRU, the Shelter and naloxone kits
Mobile Paramedic Unit Services	EMS	In Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Position with PSC/Labour relations will be posted ASAP Collaborating HSS with Mobile Crisis team
Collaboration with BCEHS to explore best practices in prehospital care and share data and trends	EMS	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BCEHS provided YEMS access to internal data. Reviewed by EMS
Front line responder working group to explore strategies from a responder perspective	EMS	Ongoing	
EMS distribution of Naloxone	EMS	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expanding the program with FNWLF Providing public education on Naloxone administration

HSS Substance Use Health Emergency (SUHE) Situational Report

Partnership with BC with respect to intel on movement of drugs coming north through BC	EMS	Ongoing	
ERCO training for over the phone instructions on naloxone administration.	EMS	Complete	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Program fully operational
Expand EMS hours at the Shelter	EMS	Complete	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expanded hours posted
Joint initiatives			
Working with Lifeguard digital health app to determine how their product could be used in the Yukon to reduce harm and prevent unintentional death.	HSS, BT4D, KDFN	In Progress	
Expanding drug testing to rural communities and increasing availability in Whitehorse	HSS, BT4D	In Progress	
Mobile Crisis Unit - collaboration between RCMP and MWSU to provide joint services to mental health calls by pairing a mental health nurse team with a trained RCMP team.	RCMP, HSS	In Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Currently interviewing for nurse positions Joint presentation at Leadership meeting occurred
Changing hours of operation at the Supervised Consumption Site	HSS, BT4D	Complete	
Door to door Naloxone distribution, drug testing strips and harm reduction supplies	CTFN, MWSU, BT4D	Complete	
Yukon First Nation Initiatives			
Outreach services	Kwanlin Dün First Nation	Ongoing	Provision of safe injection equipment, safe crack kits, condoms, naloxone kits and training and community needle drop box.
City of Whitehorse (COW) Initiatives			

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Facility Signage	COW	In Progress	The City is working on placement of signage at facilities where naloxone kits are available and staff are trained in their use.
Staff training on use of Naloxone	COW	In Progress	First round completed in April and May - 33 employees trained
Public communications to raise awareness on matters related to opioids	COW	Ongoing	The City has been using its communications platforms to share partner information/public education communications materials.
Updating of Naloxone kits and review of facility placement	COW	Complete	Upgraded kits in place in various City facilities.
Creation of a Safe Work Procedure for City employees responding to an overdose	COW	Complete	Distributed to City employees and posted for use.

HSS Substance Use Health Emergency (SUHE) Situational Report

The Substance Use Health Emergency - Project Executive Committee consists of Yukon government representatives and allied partners working together on a coordinated response to the territory's substance use health emergency.

Form Prepared:		Drug Toxicity Deaths:		Non-Fatal Drug/Alcohol Toxicity Events:	
Date: October 5, 2022		Coroner's Service:		Hospital:	
Time: 4:00 pm		Confirmed Substance-Related Deaths:		Drug Poisoning ED Visits	Alcohol ED Visits
Previous Meeting:	September 29, 2022	Year-to-Date Total: 19		99	579
		Previous Year Total: 25		200	677
	Services:		EMS:		
	Supervised Consumption Site:	Take Home Naloxone (# distributed):	Suspected Drug Poisoning	Alcohol Poisoning:	
	Year-to-Date:				
	1363	6047	254	886	
Previous Year:	77	3571	360	1225	

Priority Issues/Flags:

Action Items:

What?

Who?

Communications:

Next meeting scheduled for 2 pm Thursday, October 27

HSS Substance Use Health Emergency (SUHE) Situational Report

Current Project List			
Yukon Government Lead Initiatives			
Project Description	Project Lead	Current Status	Status Update
New Overdose Outreach Team/Opioid Treatment Services referral form/phone number expands outreach capacity via referrals from community partners (YHC, EMS, WES, RCMP, others)	MWSU	In Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MWSU started its Opioid Overdose Response team, have hired two new staff, two other new hires pending. Through Referred Care Clinic, will respond to people who have overdosed or at risk. Provides referrals, pathways to service, such as OAT or safe supply. Partners can now refer to OOT/OTS via phone/form. OOT also well connected to SCS.
Expansion of safe supply prescribing through the OTS program	MWSU	In Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> YRNA are working on their provisions to allow NPs to prescribe safe supply. Hiring is underway of additional staff to support expansion of safe supply prescribing and wraparound supports. Doubling prescribership for making this available – three doctor days – can extend services beyond the RCC location.
Needs assessment related to OTS and safe supply to gain a better understanding of drug use patterns in the territory and gaps in the provision of services to inform the expansion of OTS services, including safe supply.	MWSU	In Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contract has been awarded to Vink Consulting. Assessment is underway; consultant is engaging stakeholders to inform the report.
Substance Use Action Plan	HSS	In Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Substance Use Health Emergency Working Group is comprised of representatives from Population and Public Health, HSS Strategic Policy and Planning and MWSU.

HSS Substance Use Health Emergency (SUHE) Situational Report

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This group is developing a Substance Use Action Plan, including an implementation plan and performance measurement indicators, in partnership with YG and non-YG partners. Plan will be informed by the results of past and ongoing engagements with PWLLE and stakeholders. Will share the draft action plan goals with the Project Executive Committee.
Safe Supply and Harm Reduction Vending Machines	HSS, MWSU	In Progress	
Patient Journey Mapping	MWSU	In Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Three maps completed, with several more in progress.
Expanding prescribing capability for NPs at OTS	HSS	In Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting with YRNA took place to discuss opportunities and benefits for expanding scope.
Sublocade prescribed to inmates at WCC instead of Suboxone/Methadone when appropriate	Justice, WCC, MWSU	In Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developing care pathway to ensure appropriate handover to OTS when inmate is discharged.
Public campaigns to increase awareness of services and supports available from YG and external providers, and to decrease stigma around substance use.	HSS	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communications working group developing an awareness campaign—brochure and website supported by targeted search advertising—in final stages. Additional tactics to come. Anti-stigma awareness campaign development—engagement session with people with lived and living experience complete. Concepts under development. Group next meets October 14.
Development of the physician and pharmacist Community of Practice Group regarding Safe Supply	MWSU	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meetings take place regularly.

HSS Substance Use Health Emergency (SUHE) Situational Report

Outreach Services provided at the Shelter and Housing First	MWSU, SS	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outreach Social Work Team supporting clients at the Shelter and Housing First.
Sublocade prescribed to OTS patients	MWSU	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clients at the OTS clinic and at the Shelter from outside of Whitehorse are being prescribed Sublocade as a trial for adding OTS to the communities.
Renovations to the Supervised Consumption Site to allow for the use of inhalants	HPW, HSS	Complete	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upgrades to the Supervised Consumption Site to accommodate inhalation (smoking) as a method of drug consumption are now complete. Renovations to the ventilation system included upgrading the HVAC system and the installation of an additional window and door.
Brave alarms (harm reduction motion sensor alarms) at the Shelter	HSS, SS	Complete	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alarms have been installed in all single bathroom and shower stalls.
Mental Health Summit Phases I & II	HSS	Complete	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 500+ participants in a virtual format. What We Heard report is complete. Links to the presentations are on Yukon.ca Presentation topics were medically-focused, in addition to harm reduction, housing, social justice, and continuum of care, among many others. Still gathering feedback from Phase II. Much of what was heard at the Summit focused on transitional housing and housing gaps, as well as expanding opioid and land-based treatments to communities.

HSS Substance Use Health Emergency (SUHE) Situational Report

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anyone with feedback or recommendations, please contact Cameron or Emma any time.
Increasing OTS physician days at the Shelter	MWSU, RCC	Complete	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr. Bryant runs a full day clinic at the Shelter on Mondays and Thursdays.
Staff education at RCC for expanding opioid agonist therapy	MWSU, RCC	Complete	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Makes it easier for people to access higher doses sooner, which includes making injectable sublocade treatment available sooner and bypassing requirement to begin with tablets.
Blood Ties Four Directions (BT4D)			
Knock for Naloxone campaign to get businesses and employees trained in how to use Naloxone.	BT4D	Ongoing	
Increased distribution of take home fentanyl testing kits in rural communities and Whitehorse	BT4D	Complete	
Expanding hours of operation of the Outreach van	BT4D	Complete	
Yukon Hospital Corporation (YHC)			
Harm reduction supplies	YHC	In Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presently have system where patients can register and receive supplies, looking to make this lower barrier to access as part of a structured strategy. YHC working with MWSU to improve access.

HSS Substance Use Health Emergency (SUHE) Situational Report

Discharge planning – making improvements to connecting patients to the right programs and services	YHC	In Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> YHC working with MWSU ER Nurse and other MWSU team members to improve access.
YHC Harm Reduction Strategy - will involve overdose prevention, infection prevention, discharge planning, partnerships with First Nations Health Programs, etc...	YHC	In Progress	
Suboxone/methadone daily dosing - in community hospitals, partnership with local medical clinic and dispensaries to ensure access to daily witnessed doses of OAT outside of clinic hours through emergency room	YHC	Ongoing	
Naloxone kits available for distribution through the ED	YHC	Ongoing	
Point of care urine drug testing- Ability to screen for UDOA and Fentanyl at point of care including at community hospitals	YHC	Ongoing	
Whitehorse General Hospital has implemented a managed alcohol program for inpatients to provide low-barrier access to care.	YHC	Complete	

Emergency Medical Services (EMS)

Readily available drug testing strips, spectrometers	EMS	In Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spectrometer on order Supporting documentation developed Test strips received will be introduced to PRU, the Shelter and naloxone kits
Mobile Paramedic Unit Services	EMS	Underway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EMS has launched its paramedic response unit, which includes two paramedics plus one at WES.

HSS Substance Use Health Emergency (SUHE) Situational Report

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exemption for mobile drug testing is a key objective. Focused on overdose response, prevention and supporting those at high risk of substance use in downtown Whitehorse. Collaborating HSS with Mobile Crisis team
Collaboration with BCEHS to explore best practices in prehospital care and share data and trends	EMS	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BCEHS provided YEMS access to internal data. Reviewed by EMS
Front line responder working group to explore strategies from a responder perspective	EMS	Ongoing	
EMS distribution of Naloxone	EMS	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expanding the program with FNWLF Providing public education on Naloxone administration
Partnership with BC with respect to intel on movement of drugs coming north through BC	EMS	Ongoing	
ERCO training for over the phone instructions on naloxone administration.	EMS	Complete	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Program fully operational
Expand EMS hours at the Shelter	EMS	Complete	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expanded hours posted
Joint initiatives			
Working with Lifeguard digital health app to determine how their product could be used in the Yukon to reduce harm and prevent unintentional death.	HSS, BT4D, KDFN	In Progress	
Expanding drug testing to rural communities and increasing availability in Whitehorse	HSS, BT4D	In Progress	

HSS Substance Use Health Emergency (SUHE) Situational Report

Mobile Crisis Unit - collaboration between RCMP and MWSU to provide joint services to mental health calls by pairing a mental health nurse team with a trained RCMP team.	RCMP, HSS	In Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One nurse hired, one more required for services seven days per week. Expected to start this month.
Changing hours of operation at the Supervised Consumption Site	HSS, BT4D	Complete	
Door to door Naloxone distribution, drug testing strips and harm reduction supplies	CTFN, MWSU, BT4D	Complete	
Three-day on-the-land gathering of men from across the Yukon	The Nelson Project Society	Upcoming	The Nelson Project Society supports at-risk Indigenous and non-Indigenous men across the Yukon, Northern B.C. and other cross-boundary areas. The gathering will include a supportive employer and service fair and will provide opportunities for at-risk men to get involved.
Hives for Watson Lake	Liard First Nation, MWSUS	Upcoming	Uses therapeutic and mentorship beekeeping as an avenue for engaging community members in activities focused on harm reduction, mental health and life promotion, suicide prevention, life skills modeling and increased community-nature connection. Focuses on engaging clients and community members who experience barriers to accessing services in an office setting. The innovative, nature-based and culturally appropriate program will be open to all community members.
Roots of Hope Initiative Nihè dinch'è jì' wètàzul / It Is Better When You Are With Us suicide prevention training and ongoing awareness	Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Wellness Department, Roots of	Complete/Ongoing	Suicide prevention training in Dawson City as part of Suicide Prevention Week. Project builds on community expertise to implement suicide prevention interventions tailored to local context, and develops evidence-based best practices and suicide prevention guidelines and tools. Trainings

HSS Substance Use Health Emergency (SUHE) Situational Report

	Hope, MWSUS		help participants learn to recognize signs when someone needs help and teaches participants how to take appropriate and sensitive action.
Yukon First Nation Initiatives			
Outreach services	Kwanlin Dün First Nation	Ongoing	Provision of safe injection equipment, safe crack kits, condoms, naloxone kits and training and community needle drop box.
First Nation-led Mental Health and Opioid Use Public Awareness Campaign	CYFN, BT4D	Ongoing	CYFN working with Blood Ties Four Directions to develop a targeted, culturally appropriate public awareness campaign about opioid use and mental health in the Yukon, complements other ongoing campaigns.
City of Whitehorse (COW) Initiatives			
Facility Signage	COW	In Progress	The City is working on placement of signage at facilities where naloxone kits are available and staff are trained in their use.
Staff training on use of Naloxone	COW	In Progress	First round completed in April and May - 33 employees trained
Public communications to raise awareness on matters related to opioids	COW	Ongoing	The City has been using its communications platforms to share partner information/public education communications materials.
Updating of Naloxone kits and review of facility placement	COW	Complete	Upgraded kits in place in various City facilities.
Creation of a Safe Work Procedure for City employees responding to an overdose	COW	Complete	Distributed to City employees and posted for use.

HSS Substance Use Health Emergency (SUHE) Situational Report

The Substance Use Health Emergency - Project Executive Committee consists of Yukon government representatives and allied partners working together on a coordinated response to the territory's substance use health emergency.

Form Prepared:		Drug Toxicity Deaths:		Non-Fatal Drug/Alcohol Toxicity Events:	
Date: October 31, 2022		Coroner's Service:		Hospital:	
Time: 4:00 pm		Confirmed Substance-Related Deaths:		Drug Poisoning ED Visits	Alcohol ED Visits
Previous Meeting:	October 27, 2022	Year-to-Date Total:	21	115 (Oct. 25)	624 (Oct. 25)
		Previous Year Total:	25	200	677
	Services:		EMS:		
	Supervised Consumption Site:	Take Home Naloxone (# distributed):	Suspected Drug Poisoning	Alcohol Poisoning:	
	Year-to-Date:	Previous Year:	Year-to-Date:	Previous Year:	Year-to-Date:
	1557	6224	300	983	
	77	3571	360	1225	

Priority Issues/Flags:	Action Items:	
	What?	Who?
Communications:		

HSS Substance Use Health Emergency (SUHE) Situational Report

Current Project List			
Yukon Government Lead Initiatives			
Project Description	Project Lead	Current Status	Status Update
Youth Roots: A Substance Use Prevention Gathering	Health Promotion Unit (HSS)	Upcoming November 16-17 at KDCC and Zoom Register here Questions/more info: youthroots@yukon.ca	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Event includes people working in health promotion, education, youth recreation, research, policy, and community members from across the Yukon. Goal is to promote and support primary substance-use prevention, with an emphasis on long-term, upstream, creative approaches.
New Overdose Outreach Team/Opioid Treatment Services referral form/phone number expands outreach capacity via referrals from community partners (YHC, EMS, WES, RCMP, others)	MWSU	Active	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MWSU started its Opioid Overdose Response team, have hired two new staff, two other new hires pending. Through Referred Care Clinic, will respond to people who have overdosed or at risk. Provides referrals, pathways to service, such as OAT or safe supply. Partners can now refer to OOT/OTS via phone/form. OOT also well connected to SCS.
Expansion of safe supply prescribing through the OTS program	MWSU	In Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> YRNA are working on their provisions to allow NPs to prescribe safe supply. Hiring is underway of additional staff to support expansion of safe supply prescribing and wraparound supports. Doubling prescribership for making this available – three doctor days – can extend services beyond the RCC location.
Needs assessment related to OTS and safe supply to gain a better understanding of drug use patterns in the territory and gaps in the provision	MWSU	In Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contract has been awarded to Vink Consulting.

HSS Substance Use Health Emergency (SUHE) Situational Report

of services to inform the expansion of OTS services, including safe supply.			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assessment is underway; consultant is engaging stakeholders to inform the report.
Substance Use Action Plan	HSS	In Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Substance Use Health Emergency Working Group is comprised of representatives from Population and Public Health, HSS Strategic Policy and Planning and MWSU. This group is developing a Substance Use Action Plan, including an implementation plan and performance measurement indicators, in partnership with YG and non-YG partners. Plan will be informed by the results of past and ongoing engagements with PWLLE and stakeholders. Will share the draft action plan goals with the Project Executive Committee.
Safe Supply and Harm Reduction Vending Machines	HSS, MWSU	In Progress	
Patient Journey Mapping	MWSU	In Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Five maps completed, with several more in progress.
Expanding prescribing capability for NPs at OTS	HSS	In Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting with YRNA took place to discuss opportunities and benefits for expanding scope.
Sublocade prescribed to inmates at WCC instead of Suboxone/Methadone when appropriate	Justice, WCC, MWSU	In Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developing care pathway to ensure appropriate handover to OTS when inmate is discharged.
Public campaigns to increase awareness of services and supports available from YG and external providers, and to decrease stigma around substance use.	HSS	Launching this week	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The SUHE comms/info working group, co-chaired by HSS, BT4D and CYFN, has developed two campaigns The first offers a single online directory of all YG/non-YG substance use and mental wellness supports in the Yukon. Search ads

HSS Substance Use Health Emergency (SUHE) Situational Report

			<p>and print collateral will help raise awareness of supports available.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The second is an anti-stigma campaign encouraging Yukoners to put the person first when talking about substance use. Offers educational resources and tips to reduce stigma, get help. Landing pages will link to each other and the main SUHE webpage.
Development of the physician and pharmacist Community of Practice Group regarding Safe Supply	MWSU	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meetings take place regularly.
Outreach Services provided at the Shelter and Housing First	MWSU, SS	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outreach Social Work Team supporting clients at the Shelter and Housing First.
Sublocade prescribed to OTS patients	MWSU	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clients at the OTS clinic and at the Shelter from outside of Whitehorse are being prescribed Sublocade as a trial for adding OTS to the communities.
Renovations to the Supervised Consumption Site to allow for the use of inhalants	HPW, HSS	Complete	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upgrades to the Supervised Consumption Site to accommodate inhalation (smoking) as a method of drug consumption are now complete. Renovations to the ventilation system included upgrading the HVAC system and the installation of an additional window and door.
Brave alarms (harm reduction motion sensor alarms) at the Shelter	HSS, SS	Complete	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alarms have been installed in all single bathroom and shower stalls.
Mental Health Summit Phases I & II	HSS	Complete	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 500+ participants in a virtual format. What We Heard report is complete. Links to the presentations are on Yukon.ca Presentation topics were medically-focused, in addition to harm

HSS Substance Use Health Emergency (SUHE) Situational Report

			<p>reduction, housing, social justice, and continuum of care, among many others.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Still gathering feedback from Phase II. • Much of what was heard at the Summit focused on transitional housing and housing gaps, as well as expanding opioid and land-based treatments to communities. • Anyone with feedback or recommendations, please contact Cameron or Emma any time.
Increasing OTS physician days at the Shelter	MWSU, RCC	Complete	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Bryant runs a full day clinic at the Shelter on Mondays and Thursdays.
Staff education at RCC for expanding opioid agonist therapy	MWSU, RCC	Complete	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Makes it easier for people to access higher doses sooner, which includes making injectable sublocade treatment available sooner and bypassing requirement to begin with tablets.
Blood Ties Four Directions (BT4D)			
Knock for Naloxone campaign to get businesses and employees trained in how to use Naloxone.	BT4D	Ongoing	
Increased distribution of take home fentanyl testing kits in rural communities and Whitehorse	BT4D	Complete	
Expanding hours of operation of the Outreach van	BT4D	Complete	

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Yukon Hospital Corporation (YHC)			
Discharge planning – making improvements to connecting patients to the right programs and services	YHC	In Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> YHC working with MWSU ER Nurse and other MWSU team members to improve access.
YHC Harm Reduction Strategy and supplies - will involve overdose prevention, infection prevention, discharge planning, partnerships with First Nations Health Programs, etc...	YHC	In Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presently have system where patients can register and receive supplies, looking to make this lower barrier to access as part of a structured strategy. YHC working with MWSU to improve access.
Suboxone/methadone daily dosing - in community hospitals, partnership with local medical clinic and dispensaries to ensure access to daily witnessed doses of OAT outside of clinic hours through emergency room	YHC	Ongoing	
Naloxone kits available for distribution through the ED	YHC	Ongoing	
Point of care urine drug testing- Ability to screen for UDOA and Fentanyl at point of care including at community hospitals	YHC	Ongoing	
Whitehorse General Hospital has implemented a managed alcohol program for inpatients to provide low-barrier access to care.	YHC	Complete	
Emergency Medical Services (EMS)			
Readily available drug testing strips, spectrometers	EMS	In Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spectrometers here. Staff require training from a specialist before use. Test strips received and rolling out. Will be introduced to PRU, the WES and naloxone kits.

HSS Substance Use Health Emergency (SUHE) Situational Report

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Test for presence of many benzos and fentanyl, though not the quantity/concentration. • Developed with guidance from BC Centre for Substance Use. • Brochure offers instructions, includes QR code to online video tutorial. • Will also do testing at WES.
Mobile Paramedic Unit Services	EMS	Underway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EMS has launched its paramedic response unit, which includes two paramedics plus one at WES. • Exemption for mobile drug testing is a key objective. • Focused on overdose response, prevention and supporting those at high risk of substance use in downtown Whitehorse. • Collaborating HSS with Mobile Crisis team
Collaboration with BCEHS to explore best practices in prehospital care and share data and trends	EMS	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BCEHS provided YEMS access to internal data. Reviewed by EMS
Front line responder working group to explore strategies from a responder perspective	EMS	Ongoing	
EMS distribution of Naloxone	EMS	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expanding the program with FNWLF • Providing public education on Naloxone administration
Partnership with BC with respect to intel on movement of drugs coming north through BC	EMS	Ongoing	
ERCO training for over the phone instructions on naloxone administration.	EMS	Complete	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Program fully operational

HSS Substance Use Health Emergency (SUHE) Situational Report

Expand EMS hours at the Shelter	EMS	Complete	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expanded hours posted
Joint initiatives			
Working with Lifeguard digital health app to determine how their product could be used in the Yukon to reduce harm and prevent unintentional death.	HSS, BT4D, KDFN	In Progress	
Expanding drug testing to rural communities and increasing availability in Whitehorse	HSS, BT4D	In Progress	
Mobile Crisis Unit (Car 867) Collaboration between RCMP and MWSU to provide joint services to mental health calls by pairing a mental health nurse team with a trained RCMP team.	RCMP, HSS	Launching this week	Will include peace officer and mental wellness worker to conduct mental wellness check or calls where vulnerable individuals require assistance Opioid Overdose Prevention Team, Paramedic Response Unit and Car 867 will soon meet regularly to remain coordinated.
Changing hours of operation at the Supervised Consumption Site	HSS, BT4D	Complete	
Door to door Naloxone distribution, drug testing strips and harm reduction supplies	CTFN, MWSU, BT4D	Complete	
Three-day on-the-land gathering of men from across the Yukon	The Nelson Project Society		The Nelson Project Society supports at-risk Indigenous and non-Indigenous men across the Yukon, Northern B.C. and other cross-boundary areas. The gathering will include a supportive employer and service fair and will provide opportunities for at-risk men to get involved.
Hives for Watson Lake	Liard First Nation, MWSUS		Uses therapeutic and mentorship beekeeping as an avenue for engaging community members in activities focused on harm reduction, mental health and life promotion, suicide prevention, life skills

HSS Substance Use Health Emergency (SUHE) Situational Report

			modeling and increased community-nature connection. Focuses on engaging clients and community members who experience barriers to accessing services in an office setting. The innovative, nature-based and culturally appropriate program will be open to all community members.
Roots of Hope Initiative Nihè dinch'è jì' wètàzul / It Is Better When You Are With Us suicide prevention training and ongoing awareness	Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Wellness Department, Roots of Hope, MWSUS	Complete/Ongoing	Suicide prevention training in Dawson City as part of Suicide Prevention Week. Project builds on community expertise to implement suicide prevention interventions tailored to local context, and develops evidence-based best practices and suicide prevention guidelines and tools. Trainings help participants learn to recognize signs when someone needs help and teaches participants how to take appropriate and sensitive action.
Yukon First Nation Initiatives			
Outreach services	Kwanlin Dün First Nation	Ongoing	Provision of safe injection equipment, safe crack kits, condoms, naloxone kits and training and community needle drop box.
First Nation-led Mental Health and Opioid Use Public Awareness Campaign	CYFN, BT4D	Ongoing	CYFN working with Blood Ties Four Directions to develop a targeted, culturally appropriate public awareness campaign about opioid use and mental health in the Yukon, complements other ongoing campaigns.
City of Whitehorse (COW) Initiatives			
Facility Signage	COW	In Progress	The City is working on placement of signage at facilities where naloxone kits are available and staff are trained in their use.
Staff training on use of Naloxone	COW	In Progress	First round completed in April and May - 33 employees trained

HSS Substance Use Health Emergency (SUHE) Situational Report

Public communications to raise awareness on matters related to opioids	COW	Ongoing	The City has been using its communications platforms to share partner information/public education communications materials.
Updating of Naloxone kits and review of facility placement	COW	Complete	Upgraded kits in place in various City facilities.
Creation of a Safe Work Procedure for City employees responding to an overdose	COW	Complete	Distributed to City employees and posted for use.

HSS Substance Use Health Emergency (SUHE) Situational Report

The Substance Use Health Emergency - Project Executive Committee consists of Yukon government representatives and allied partners working together on a coordinated response to the territory's substance use health emergency.

Form Prepared:		Drug Toxicity Deaths:		Non-Fatal Drug/Alcohol Toxicity Events:	
Date:	December 13, 2022	Coroner's Service:		Hospital:	
Time:	4:00 pm	Confirmed Substance-Related Deaths:		Drug Poisoning ED Visits	Alcohol ED Visits
Previous Meeting:	October 27, 2022	Year-to-Date Total:	22	127	652
		Previous Year Total:	25	200	677
	Services:			EMS:	
	Supervised Consumption Site:	Take Home Naloxone (# distributed):		Suspected Drug Poisoning	Alcohol Poisoning:
	Year-to-Date:	1,836		322	1,040
	Previous Year:	77		360	1225

Priority Issues/Flags:	Action Items:	
	What?	Who?
Communications:		

HSS Substance Use Health Emergency (SUHE) Situational Report

Current Project List			
Yukon Government Lead Initiatives			
Project Description	Project Lead	Current Status	Status Update
Youth Roots: A Substance Use Prevention Gathering	Health Promotion Unit (HSS)	Held November 16-17 at KDCC and Zoom Questions/more info: youthroots@yukon.ca Video of sessions will be available at www.Yukon.ca/substance-use-health-emergency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Event included people working in health promotion, education, youth recreation, research, policy, and community members from across the Yukon. Goal was to promote and support primary substance-use prevention, with an emphasis on long-term, upstream, creative approaches.
New Overdose Outreach Team/Opioid Treatment Services referral form/phone number expands outreach capacity via referrals from community partners (YHC, EMS, 405 Alexander, RCMP, others)	MWSU	Active	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MWSU started its Opioid Overdose Response team, have hired two new staff, two other new hires pending. Through Referred Care Clinic, will respond to people who have overdosed or at risk. Provides referrals, pathways to service, such as OAT or safe supply. Partners can now refer to OOT/OTS via phone/form. OOT also well connected to SCS.
Expansion of safe supply prescribing through the OTS program	MWSU	In Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> YRNA are working on their provisions to allow NPs to prescribe safe supply. Hiring is underway of additional staff to support expansion of safe supply prescribing and wraparound supports. Doubling prescribership for making this available to extend services beyond the Whitehorse RCC location.

HSS Substance Use Health Emergency (SUHE) Situational Report

Needs assessment related to OTS and safe supply to gain a better understanding of drug use patterns in the territory and gaps in the provision of services to inform the expansion of OTS services, including safe supply.	MWSU	Complete	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assessment complete. Vink Consulting engaged stakeholders to inform the report.
Substance Use Action Plan	HSS	In Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Substance Use Health Emergency Working Group is comprised of representatives from Population and Public Health, HSS Strategic Policy and Planning and MWSU. This group is developing a Substance Use Action Plan, including an implementation plan and performance measurement indicators, in partnership with YG and non-YG partners. Expected in early 2023. Key priority areas include harm reduction, community safety, and treatment and aftercare, and prevention.
Safe Supply and Harm Reduction Vending Machines	HSS, MWSU	In Progress	
Patient Journey Mapping	MWSU	In Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Five maps completed, with several more in progress.
Expanding prescribing capability for NPs at OTS	HSS	In Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting with YRNA took place to discuss opportunities and benefits for expanding scope.
Sublocade prescribed to inmates at WCC instead of Suboxone/Methadone when appropriate	Justice, WCC, MWSU	In Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developing care pathway to ensure appropriate handover to OTS when inmate is discharged.
Public campaigns to increase awareness of services and supports available from YG and external	HSS	Active	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The SUHE comms/info working group, co-chaired by HSS, BT4D and CYFN, developed two campaigns

HSS Substance Use Health Emergency (SUHE) Situational Report

providers, and to decrease stigma around substance use.			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support is Here for You is a territory-wide campaign developed with community and health system partners to promote awareness of the many treatment, counselling and harm reduction services available for Yukoners from government and non-government organizations. Put the Person First is a territory-wide anti-stigma awareness campaign encouraging Yukoners to replace stigmatized language with humanizing language when discussing substance use and those who use substances, and to consider how stigma prevents Yukoners from accessing services and seeking help. New imagery and tactics are expected in market in January.
Development of the physician and pharmacist Community of Practice Group regarding Safe Supply	MWSU	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meetings take place regularly.
Outreach Services provided at 405 Alexander and Housing First	MWSU, SS	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outreach Social Work Team supporting clients at 405 Alexander and Housing First.
Sublocade prescribed to OTS patients	MWSU	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clients at the OTS clinic and at 405 Alexander from outside of Whitehorse are being prescribed Sublocade as a trial for adding OTS to the communities.
Renovations to the Supervised Consumption Site to allow for the use of inhalants	HPW, HSS	Complete	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upgrades to the Supervised Consumption Site to accommodate inhalation (smoking) as a method of drug consumption are now complete. Renovations to the ventilation system included upgrading the HVAC system and the installation

HSS Substance Use Health Emergency (SUHE) Situational Report

			of an additional window and door.
Brave alarms (harm reduction motion sensor alarms) at 405 Alexander	HSS, SS	Complete	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alarms have been installed in all single bathroom and shower stalls.
Mental Health Summit Phases I & II	HSS	Complete	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 500+ participants in a virtual format. Links to the presentations are on Yukon.ca Presentation topics were medically-focused, in addition to harm reduction, housing, social justice, and continuum of care, among many others. Much of what was heard at the Summit focused on transitional housing and housing gaps, as well as expanding opioid and land-based treatments to communities.
Increasing OTS physician days at the 405 Alexander	MWSU, RCC	Complete	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr. Bryant runs a full day clinic at 405 Alexander on Mondays and Thursdays.
Staff education at RCC for expanding opioid agonist therapy	MWSU, RCC	Complete	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Makes it easier for people to access higher doses sooner, which includes making injectable sublocade treatment available sooner and bypassing requirement to begin with tablets.

HSS Substance Use Health Emergency (SUHE) Situational Report

Blood Ties Four Directions (BT4D)			
Knock for Naloxone campaign to get businesses and employees trained in how to use Naloxone.	BT4D	Ongoing	
Increased distribution of take home fentanyl testing kits in rural communities and Whitehorse	BT4D	Complete	
Expanding hours of operation of the Outreach van	BT4D	Complete	
Yukon Hospital Corporation (YHC)			
Discharge planning – making improvements to connecting patients to the right programs and services	YHC	In Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> YHC working with MWSU ER Nurse and other MWSU team members to improve access.
YHC Harm Reduction Strategy and supplies - will involve overdose prevention, infection prevention, discharge planning, partnerships with First Nations Health Programs, etc...	YHC	In Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presently have system where patients can register and receive supplies, looking to make this lower barrier to access as part of a structured strategy. YHC working with MWSU to improve access.
Suboxone/methadone daily dosing - in community hospitals, partnership with local medical clinic and dispensaries to ensure access to daily witnessed doses of OAT outside of clinic hours through emergency room	YHC	Ongoing	
Naloxone kits available for distribution through the ED	YHC	Ongoing	
Point of care urine drug testing- Ability to screen for UDOA and Fentanyl at point of care including at community hospitals	YHC	Ongoing	

HSS Substance Use Health Emergency (SUHE) Situational Report

Whitehorse General Hospital has implemented a managed alcohol program for inpatients to provide low-barrier access to care.	YHC	Complete	
Emergency Medical Services (EMS)			
Readily available drug testing strips, spectrometers	EMS	In Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spectrometers here. Some operational training on how to use the machine has been completed. • Installing equipment in mobile testing unit. • Test strips received and being distributed. Will be introduced to PRU, 405 Alexander. • Tests detect presence of many benzos and fentanyl, though not the quantity/concentration. • Awaiting instruments needed for testing. • Aim is to distribute test strips in every YT community in convenient locations. • Developed with guidance from BC Centre for Substance Use. • Brochure offers instructions, includes QR code to online video tutorial.
Mobile Paramedic Unit Services	EMS	Underway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EMS has launched its paramedic response unit, which includes two paramedics plus one at 405 Alexander. • Exemption for mobile drug testing is a key objective. • Focused on overdose response, prevention and supporting those

HSS Substance Use Health Emergency (SUHE) Situational Report

			at high risk of substance use in downtown Whitehorse. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collaborating HSS with Mobile Crisis team
Collaboration with BCEHS to explore best practices in prehospital care and share data and trends	EMS	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BCEHS provided YEMS access to internal data. Reviewed by EMS
Front line responder working group to explore strategies from a responder perspective	EMS	Ongoing	
EMS distribution of Naloxone	EMS	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expanding the program with FNWLF Providing public education on Naloxone administration
Partnership with BC with respect to intel on movement of drugs coming north through BC	EMS	Ongoing	
ERCO training for over the phone instructions on naloxone administration.	EMS	Complete	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Program operational
Expand EMS hours at the 405 Alexander	EMS	Complete	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expanded hours posted
Joint initiatives			
Working with Lifeguard digital health app to determine how their product could be used in the Yukon to reduce harm and prevent unintentional death.	HSS, BT4D, KDFN	In Progress	
Expanding drug testing to rural communities and increasing availability in Whitehorse	HSS, BT4D	In Progress	
Mobile Crisis Unit (Car 867)	RCMP, HSS	Active	Will include peace officer and mental wellness worker to conduct mental

HSS Substance Use Health Emergency (SUHE) Situational Report

Collaboration between RCMP and MWSU to provide joint services to mental health calls by pairing a mental health nurse team with a trained RCMP team.			wellness check or calls where vulnerable individuals require assistance Opioid Overdose Prevention Team, Paramedic Response Unit and Car 867 will soon meet regularly to remain coordinated.
Changing hours of operation at the Supervised Consumption Site	HSS, BT4D	Complete	
Door to door Naloxone distribution, drug testing strips and harm reduction supplies	CTFN, MWSU, BT4D	Complete	
Three-day on-the-land gathering of men from across the Yukon	The Nelson Project Society		The Nelson Project Society supports at-risk Indigenous and non-Indigenous men across the Yukon, Northern B.C. and other cross-boundary areas. The gathering will include a supportive employer and service fair and will provide opportunities for at-risk men to get involved.
Hives for Watson Lake	Liard First Nation, MWSUS		Uses therapeutic and mentorship beekeeping as an avenue for engaging community members in activities focused on harm reduction, mental health and life promotion, suicide prevention, life skills modeling and increased community-nature connection. Focuses on engaging clients and community members who experience barriers to accessing services in an office setting. The innovative, nature-based and culturally appropriate program will be open to all community members.
Roots of Hope Initiative Nihè dinch'è jì' wètàzul / It Is Better When You Are With Us suicide	Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Wellness Department, Roots	Complete/Ongoing	Suicide prevention training in Dawson City as part of Suicide Prevention Week. Project builds on community expertise to implement suicide prevention interventions tailored to local context,

HSS Substance Use Health Emergency (SUHE) Situational Report

prevention training and ongoing awareness	of Hope, MWSUS		and develops evidence-based best practices and suicide prevention guidelines and tools. Trainings help participants learn to recognize signs when someone needs help and teaches participants how to take appropriate and sensitive action.
Yukon First Nation Initiatives			
Outreach services	Kwanlin Dün First Nation	Ongoing	Provision of safe injection equipment, safe crack kits, condoms, naloxone kits and training and community needle drop box.
First Nation-led Mental Health and Opioid Use Public Awareness Campaign	CYFN, BT4D	Ongoing	CYFN working with Blood Ties Four Directions to develop a targeted, culturally appropriate public awareness campaign about opioid use and mental health in the Yukon, to complement other ongoing campaigns.
City of Whitehorse (COW) Initiatives			
Facility Signage	COW	In Progress	The City is working on placement of signage at facilities where naloxone kits are available and staff are trained in their use.
Staff training on use of Naloxone	COW	In Progress	First round completed in April and May - 33 employees trained
Public communications to raise awareness on matters related to opioids	COW	Ongoing	The City has been using its communications platforms to share partner information/public education communications materials.
Updating of Naloxone kits and review of facility placement	COW	Complete	Upgraded kits in place in various City facilities.

HSS Substance Use Health Emergency (SUHE) Situational Report

Creation of a Safe Work Procedure for City employees responding to an overdose	COW	Complete	Distributed to City employees and posted for use.
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HSS Substance Use Health Emergency (SUHE) Situational Report

The Substance Use Health Emergency - Project Executive Committee consists of Yukon government representatives and allied partners working together on a coordinated response to the territory's substance use health emergency.

Form Prepared:		Drug Toxicity Deaths Coroner's Service:	Non-Fatal Drug/Alcohol Toxicity Events:		
Date: January 11, 2023			Hospital:		
Time: 4:00 pm			Drug Poisoning ED Visits (WGH)	Alcohol ED Visits (WGH)	
Previous Meeting: October 27, 2022		Year-to-Date Total: 25	140	677	
		Previous Year Total: 25	200	677	
	Services:		EMS:		
	Visits to Supervised Consumption Site:	Take Home Naloxone (# distributed):	Suspected Drug Poisoning	Alcohol Poisoning:	
	Year-to-Date:	1997	7264	341	1076
	Previous Year:	77	3571	360	1225

Priority Issues/Flags:	Action Items:	
	What?	Who?
Communications:		
<p>On Monday, January 9, Christine McConnell circulated a request for input on the draft Substance Use Action Plan to all Project Executive Committee Members. The Substance Use Health Emergency Working Group would like to draw from the diverse expertise of the members of the Project Executive Committee members as a resource to provide feedback at various stages throughout the development of the plan. Please add your input to the priorities document you received and send responses to Christine.</p>		

HSS Substance Use Health Emergency (SUHE) Situational Report

Current Project List			
Yukon Government Lead Initiatives			
Project Description	Project Lead	Current Status	Status Update
Youth Roots: A Substance Use Prevention Gathering	Health Promotion Unit (HSS)	<p>Held November 16-17 at KDCC and via Zoom</p> <p>Questions/more info: youthroots@yukon.ca</p> <p>Video of sessions available at www.Yukon.ca/substance-use-health-emergency</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Event included people working in health promotion, education, youth recreation, research, policy, and community members from across the Yukon. Goal was to promote and support primary substance-use prevention, with an emphasis on long-term, upstream, creative approaches.
New Overdose Outreach Team/Opioid Treatment Services referral form/phone number expands outreach capacity via referrals from community partners (YHC, EMS, 405 Alexander, RCMP, others)	MWSU	Active	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MWSU started its Opioid Overdose Response team, have hired two new staff, two other new hires pending. Through Referred Care Clinic, will respond to people who have overdosed or at risk. Provides referrals, pathways to service, such as OAT or safe supply. Partners can now refer to OOT/OTS via phone/form. OOT also well connected to SCS.
Expansion of safe supply prescribing through the OTS program	MWSU	In Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> YRNA are working on their provisions to allow NPs to prescribe safe supply. Hiring is underway of additional staff to support expansion of safe supply prescribing and wraparound supports. Doubling prescribership for making this available to extend services beyond the Whitehorse RCC location.

HSS Substance Use Health Emergency (SUHE) Situational Report

Needs assessment related to OTS and safe supply to gain a better understanding of drug use patterns in the territory and gaps in the provision of services to inform the expansion of OTS services, including safe supply.	MWSU	Complete	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assessment complete. Vink Consulting engaged stakeholders to inform the report.
Substance Use Action Plan	HSS	In Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Substance Use Health Emergency Working Group is comprised of representatives from Population and Public Health, HSS Strategic Policy and Planning and MWSU. This group is developing a Substance Use Action Plan, including an implementation plan and performance measurement indicators, in partnership with YG and non-YG partners. Expected in early 2023. Key priority areas include harm reduction, community safety, and treatment and aftercare, and prevention.
Safe Supply and Harm Reduction Vending Machines	HSS, MWSU	In Progress	
Patient Journey Mapping	MWSU	In Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Five maps completed, with several more in progress.
Expanding prescribing capability for NPs at OTS	HSS	In Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting with YRNA took place to discuss opportunities and benefits for expanding scope.
Sublocade prescribed to inmates at WCC instead of Suboxone/Methadone when appropriate	Justice, WCC, MWSU	In Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developing care pathway to ensure appropriate handover to OTS when inmate is discharged.
Public campaigns to increase awareness of services and supports available from YG and external	HSS	Active	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The SUHE comms/info working group, co-chaired by HSS, BT4D and CYFN, developed two campaigns

HSS Substance Use Health Emergency (SUHE) Situational Report

providers, and to decrease stigma around substance use.			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support is Here for You is a territory-wide campaign developed with community and health system partners to promote awareness of the many treatment, counselling and harm reduction services available for Yukoners from government and non-government organizations. Put the Person First is a territory-wide anti-stigma awareness campaign encouraging Yukoners to replace stigmatized language with humanizing language when discussing substance use and those who use substances, and to consider how stigma prevents Yukoners from accessing services and seeking help. New imagery and tactics are expected in market in January.
Development of the physician and pharmacist Community of Practice Group regarding Safe Supply	MWSU	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meetings take place regularly.
Outreach Services provided at 405 Alexander and Housing First	MWSU, SS	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outreach Social Work Team supporting clients at 405 Alexander and Housing First.
Sublocade prescribed to OTS patients	MWSU	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clients at the OTS clinic and at 405 Alexander from outside of Whitehorse are being prescribed Sublocade as a trial for adding OTS to the communities.
Renovations to the Supervised Consumption Site to allow for the use of inhalants	HPW, HSS	Complete	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upgrades to the Supervised Consumption Site to accommodate inhalation (smoking) as a method of drug consumption are now complete. Renovations to the ventilation system included upgrading the HVAC system and the installation

HSS Substance Use Health Emergency (SUHE) Situational Report

			of an additional window and door.
Brave alarms (harm reduction motion sensor alarms) at 405 Alexander	HSS, SS	Complete	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alarms have been installed in all single bathroom and shower stalls.
Mental Health Summits I & II	HSS	Complete	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 500+ participants in a virtual format. Links to the presentations are on Yukon.ca Presentation topics were medically-focused, in addition to harm reduction, housing, social justice, and continuum of care, among many others. Much of what was heard at the Summit focused on transitional housing and housing gaps, as well as expanding opioid and land-based treatments to communities.
Increasing OTS physician days at the 405 Alexander	MWSU, RCC	Complete	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr. Bryant runs a full day clinic at 405 Alexander on Mondays and Thursdays.
Staff education at RCC for expanding opioid agonist therapy	MWSU, RCC	Complete	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Makes it easier for people to access higher doses sooner, which includes making injectable sublocade treatment available sooner and bypassing requirement to begin with tablets.

HSS Substance Use Health Emergency (SUHE) Situational Report

Blood Ties Four Directions (BT4D)			
Knock for Naloxone campaign to get businesses and employees trained in how to use Naloxone.	BT4D	Ongoing	
Increased distribution of take home fentanyl testing kits in rural communities and Whitehorse	BT4D	Complete	
Expanding hours of operation of the Outreach van	BT4D	Complete	
Yukon Hospital Corporation (YHC)			
Discharge planning – making improvements to connecting patients to the right programs and services	YHC	In Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> YHC working with MWSU ER Nurse and other MWSU team members to improve access.
YHC Harm Reduction Strategy and supplies - will involve overdose prevention, infection prevention, discharge planning, partnerships with First Nations Health Programs, etc...	YHC	In Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presently have system where patients can register and receive supplies, looking to make this lower barrier to access as part of a structured strategy. YHC working with MWSU to improve access.
Suboxone/methadone daily dosing - in community hospitals, partnership with local medical clinic and dispensaries to ensure access to daily witnessed doses of OAT outside of clinic hours through emergency room	YHC	Ongoing	
Naloxone kits available for distribution through the ED	YHC	Ongoing	
Point of care urine drug testing- Ability to screen for UDOA and Fentanyl at point of care including at community hospitals	YHC	Ongoing	

HSS Substance Use Health Emergency (SUHE) Situational Report

Whitehorse General Hospital has implemented a managed alcohol program for inpatients to provide low-barrier access to care.	YHC	Complete	
Emergency Medical Services (EMS)			
Readily available drug testing strips, spectrometers	EMS	In Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spectrometers here. Some operational training on how to use the machine has been completed. • Installing equipment in modified ambulance. • Specialist visiting to fully train team week of January 23. • Test strip distribution is underway. Aim is to place test strips in convenient locations. • Being distributed to PRU, 405 Alexander, several First Nations, local businesses and retail locations across YT. • Tests detect presence of many benzos and fentanyl, though not the quantity/concentration. • Developed with guidance from BC Centre for Substance Use. • Brochure offers instructions, includes QR code to online video tutorial.
Mobile Paramedic Unit Services	EMS	Underway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EMS has launched its paramedic response unit, which includes two paramedics plus one at 405 Alexander. • Exemption for mobile drug testing is a key objective.

HSS Substance Use Health Emergency (SUHE) Situational Report

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Focused on overdose response, prevention and supporting those at high risk of substance use in downtown Whitehorse. Collaborating HSS with Mobile Crisis team
Collaboration with BCEHS to explore best practices in prehospital care and share data and trends	EMS	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BCEHS provided YEMS access to internal data. Reviewed by EMS
Front line responder working group to explore strategies from a responder perspective	EMS	Ongoing	
EMS distribution of Naloxone	EMS	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expanding the program with FNWLF Providing public education on Naloxone administration
Partnership with BC with respect to intel on movement of drugs coming north through BC	EMS	Ongoing	
ERCO training for over the phone instructions on naloxone administration.	EMS	Complete	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Program operational
Expand EMS hours at the 405 Alexander	EMS	Complete	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expanded hours posted
Joint initiatives			
Working with Lifeguard digital health app to determine how their product could be used in the Yukon to reduce harm and prevent unintentional death.	HSS, BT4D, KDFN	In Progress	
Expanding drug testing to rural communities and increasing availability in Whitehorse	HSS, BT4D	In Progress	

HSS Substance Use Health Emergency (SUHE) Situational Report

<p>Mobile Crisis Unit (Car 867)</p> <p>Collaboration between RCMP and MWSU to provide joint services to mental health calls by pairing a mental health nurse team with a trained RCMP team.</p>	RCMP, HSS	Active	<p>Will include peace officer and mental wellness worker to conduct mental wellness check or calls where vulnerable individuals require assistance</p> <p>Opioid Overdose Prevention Team, Paramedic Response Unit and Car 867 will soon meet regularly to remain coordinated.</p>
Changing hours of operation at the Supervised Consumption Site	HSS, BT4D	Complete	
Door to door Naloxone distribution, drug testing strips and harm reduction supplies	CTFN, MWSU, BT4D	Complete	
Three-day on-the-land gathering of men from across the Yukon	The Nelson Project Society		The Nelson Project Society supports at-risk Indigenous and non-Indigenous men across the Yukon, Northern B.C. and other cross-boundary areas. The gathering will include a supportive employer and service fair and will provide opportunities for at-risk men to get involved.
Hives for Watson Lake	Liard First Nation, MWSUS		Uses therapeutic and mentorship beekeeping as an avenue for engaging community members in activities focused on harm reduction, mental health and life promotion, suicide prevention, life skills modeling and increased community-nature connection. Focuses on engaging clients and community members who experience barriers to accessing services in an office setting. The innovative, nature-based and culturally appropriate program will be open to all community members.
<p>Roots of Hope Initiative</p> <p>Nihè dinch'è jì' wètàzul / It Is Better When You Are With Us suicide</p>	Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Wellness	Complete/Ongoing	<p>Suicide prevention training in Dawson City as part of Suicide Prevention Week.</p> <p>Project builds on community expertise to</p>

HSS Substance Use Health Emergency (SUHE) Situational Report

prevention training and ongoing awareness	Department, Roots of Hope, MWSUS		implement suicide prevention interventions tailored to local context, and develops evidence-based best practices and suicide prevention guidelines and tools. Trainings help participants learn to recognize signs when someone needs help and teaches participants how to take appropriate and sensitive action.
Yukon First Nation Initiatives			
Outreach services	Kwanlin Dün First Nation	Ongoing	Provision of safe injection equipment, safe crack kits, condoms, naloxone kits and training and community needle drop box.
First Nation-led Mental Health and Opioid Use Public Awareness Campaign	CYFN, BT4D	Ongoing	CYFN working with Blood Ties Four Directions to develop a targeted, culturally appropriate public awareness campaign about opioid use and mental health in the Yukon, to complement other ongoing campaigns.
City of Whitehorse (COW) Initiatives			
Facility Signage	COW	In Progress	The City is working on placement of signage at facilities where naloxone kits are available and staff are trained in their use.
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HSS Substance Use Health Emergency (SUHE) Situational Report

Creation of a Safe Work Procedure for City employees responding to an overdose	COW	Complete	Distributed to City employees and posted for use.
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Situational Report

The Substance Use Health Emergency - Project Executive Committee consists of Yukon government representatives and allied partners working together on a coordinated response to the territory's substance use health emergency.

Form Prepared:		Drug Toxicity Deaths Coroner's Service:	Non-Fatal Drug/Alcohol Toxicity Events:	
Date:	February 17, 2023		Hospital:	
Time:	11:30 am		Drug Poisoning ED Visits (WGH)	Alcohol ED Visits (WGH)
Previous Meeting:	January 26, 2023	Year-to-Date Total:	NoUpdate	13
		Previous Year Total:	25	25
Year-to-Date Total:	Services:		EMS:	
	Visits to Supervised Consumption Site:	Take Home Naloxone (# distributed):	Suspected Drug Poisoning	Alcohol Poisoning:
	257	1307	36	64
Previous Year Total:	1997	7264	341	1076

Priority Issues/Flags:

Action Items:

What?

Who?

Communications:

On Monday, January 9, Christine McConnell circulated a request for input on the draft Substance Use Action Plan to all Project Executive Committee Members. The Substance Use Health Emergency Working Group would like to draw from the diverse expertise of the members of the Project Executive Committee members as a resource to provide feedback at various stages throughout the development of the plan. Please add your input to the priorities document you received and send responses to Christine.

Current Project List			
Yukon Government Lead Initiatives			
Project Description	Project Lead	Current Status	Status Update
Youth Roots: A Substance Use Prevention Gathering	Health Promotion Unit (HSS)	<p>Held November 16-17 at KDCC and via Zoom</p> <p>Questions/more info: youthroots@yukon.ca</p> <p>Video of sessions available at www.Yukon.ca/substance-use-health-emergency</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Event included people working in health promotion, education, youth recreation, research, policy, and community members from across the Yukon. • Goal was to promote and support primary substance-use prevention, with an emphasis on long-term, upstream, creative approaches.
New Overdose Outreach Team/Opioid Treatment Services referral form/phone number expands outreach capacity via referrals from community partners (YHC, EMS, 405 Alexander, RCMP, others)	MWSU	Active	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MWSU started its Opioid Overdose Response team, have hired two new staff, two other new hires pending. • Through Referred Care Clinic, will respond to people who have overdosed or at risk. • Provides referrals, pathways to service, such as OAT or safe supply. • Partners can now refer to OOT/OTS via phone/form. OOT also well connected to SCS.
Expansion of safe supply prescribing through the OTS program	MWSU	In Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • YRNA are working on their provisions to allow NPs to prescribe safe supply. • Hiring is underway of additional staff to support expansion of safe supply prescribing and wraparound supports. • Doubling prescribership for making this available to extend

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			services beyond the Whitehorse RCC location.
Needs assessment related to OTS and safe supply to gain a better understanding of drug use patterns in the territory and gaps in the provision of services to inform the expansion of OTS services, including safe supply.	MWSU	Complete	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assessment complete. Vink Consulting engaged stakeholders to inform the report.
Substance Use Action Plan	HSS	In Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Substance Use Health Emergency Working Group is comprised of representatives from Population and Public Health, HSS Strategic Policy and Planning and MWSU. This group is developing a Substance Use Action Plan, including an implementation plan and performance measurement indicators, in partnership with YG and non-YG partners. Expected in early 2023. Key priority areas include harm reduction, community safety, and treatment and aftercare, and prevention.
Safe Supply and Harm Reduction Vending Machines	HSS, MWSU	In Progress	
Patient Journey Mapping	MWSU	In Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Five maps completed, with several more in progress.
Expanding prescribing capability for NPs at OTS	HSS	In Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting with YRNA took place to discuss opportunities and benefits for expanding scope.
Sublocade prescribed to inmates at WCC instead of Suboxone/Methadone when appropriate	Justice, WCC, MWSU	In Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developing care pathway to ensure appropriate handover to OTS when inmate is discharged.

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Public campaigns to increase awareness of services and supports available from YG and external providers, and to decrease stigma around substance use.	HSS	Active	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The SUHE comms/info working group, co-chaired by HSS, BT4D and CYFN, developed two campaigns Support is Here for You is a territory-wide campaign developed with community and health system partners to promote awareness of the many treatment, counselling and harm reduction services available for Yukoners from government and non-government organizations. Put the Person First is a territory-wide anti-stigma awareness campaign encouraging Yukoners to replace stigmatized language with humanizing language when discussing substance use and those who use substances, and to consider how stigma prevents Yukoners from accessing services and seeking help. New imagery and tactics are expected in market in January.
Development of the physician and pharmacist Community of Practice Group regarding Safe Supply	MWSU	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meetings take place regularly.
Outreach Services provided at 405 Alexander and Housing First	MWSU, SS	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outreach Social Work Team supporting clients at 405 Alexander and Housing First.
Sublocade prescribed to OTS patients	MWSU	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clients at the OTS clinic and at 405 Alexander from outside of Whitehorse are being prescribed Sublocade as a trial for adding OTS to the communities.
Renovations to the Supervised Consumption Site to allow for the use of inhalants	HPW, HSS	Complete	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upgrades to the Supervised Consumption Site to accommodate inhalation (smoking) as a method of drug consumption are now complete.

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Renovations to the ventilation system included upgrading the HVAC system and the installation of an additional window and door.
Brave alarms (harm reduction motion sensor alarms) at 405 Alexander	HSS, SS	Complete	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alarms have been installed in all single bathroom and shower stalls.
Mental Health Summits I & II	HSS	Complete	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 500+ participants in a virtual format. Links to the presentations are on Yukon.ca Presentation topics were medically-focused, in addition to harm reduction, housing, social justice, and continuum of care, among many others. Much of what was heard at the Summit focused on transitional housing and housing gaps, as well as expanding opioid and land-based treatments to communities.
Increasing OTS physician days at the 405 Alexander	MWSU, RCC	Complete	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr. Bryant runs a full day clinic at 405 Alexander on Mondays and Thursdays.
Staff education at RCC for expanding opioid agonist therapy	MWSU, RCC	Complete	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Makes it easier for people to access higher doses sooner, which includes making injectable sublocade treatment available sooner and bypassing requirement to begin with tablets.

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Blood Ties Four Directions (BT4D)			
Knock for Naloxone campaign to get businesses and employees trained in how to use Naloxone.	BT4D	Ongoing	
Increased distribution of take home fentanyl testing kits in rural communities and Whitehorse	BT4D	Complete	
Expanding hours of operation of the Outreach van	BT4D	Complete	
Yukon Hospital Corporation (YHC)			
Discharge planning – making improvements to connecting patients to the right programs and services	YHC	In Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> YHC working with MWSU ER Nurse and other MWSU team members to improve access.
YHC Harm Reduction Strategy and supplies - will involve overdose prevention, infection prevention, discharge planning, partnerships with First Nations Health Programs, etc...	YHC	In Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presently have system where patients can register and receive supplies, looking to make this lower barrier to access as part of a structured strategy. YHC working with MWSU to improve access.
Suboxone/methadone daily dosing - in community hospitals, partnership with local medical clinic and dispensaries to ensure access to daily witnessed doses of OAT outside of clinic hours through emergency room	YHC	Ongoing	
Naloxone kits available for distribution through the ED	YHC	Ongoing	
Point of care urine drug testing- Ability to screen for UDOA and	YHC	Ongoing	

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Fentanyl at point of care including at community hospitals			
Whitehorse General Hospital has implemented a managed alcohol program for inpatients to provide low-barrier access to care.	YHC	Complete	
Emergency Medical Services (EMS)			
Readily available drug testing strips, spectrometers	EMS	In Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spectrometers here. Some operational training on how to use the machine has been completed. • Installing equipment in modified ambulance. • Specialist visiting to fully train team week of January 23. • Test strip distribution is underway. Aim is to place test strips in convenient locations. • Being distributed to PRU, 405 Alexander, several First Nations, local businesses and retail locations across YT. • Tests detect presence of many benzos and fentanyl, though not the quantity/concentration. • Developed with guidance from BC Centre for Substance Use. • Brochure offers instructions, includes QR code to online video tutorial.
Mobile Paramedic Unit Services	EMS	Underway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EMS has launched its paramedic response unit, which includes two paramedics plus one at 405 Alexander.

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exemption for mobile drug testing is a key objective. Focused on overdose response, prevention and supporting those at high risk of substance use in downtown Whitehorse. Collaborating HSS with Mobile Crisis team
Collaboration with BCEHS to explore best practices in prehospital care and share data and trends	EMS	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BCEHS provided YEMS access to internal data. Reviewed by EMS
Front line responder working group to explore strategies from a responder perspective	EMS	Ongoing	
EMS distribution of Naloxone	EMS	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expanding the program with FNWLF Providing public education on Naloxone administration
Partnership with BC with respect to intel on movement of drugs coming north through BC	EMS	Ongoing	
ERCO training for over the phone instructions on naloxone administration.	EMS	Complete	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Program operational
Expand EMS hours at the 405 Alexander	EMS	Complete	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expanded hours posted
Joint initiatives			
Working with Lifeguard digital health app to determine how their product could be used in the Yukon to reduce harm and prevent unintentional death.	HSS, BT4D, KDFN	In Progress	

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Expanding drug testing to rural communities and increasing availability in Whitehorse	HSS, BT4D	In Progress	
Mobile Crisis Unit (Car 867) Collaboration between RCMP and MWSU to provide joint services to mental health calls by pairing a mental health nurse team with a trained RCMP team.	RCMP, HSS	Active	Will include peace officer and mental wellness worker to conduct mental wellness check or calls where vulnerable individuals require assistance Opioid Overdose Prevention Team, Paramedic Response Unit and Car 867 will soon meet regularly to remain coordinated.
Changing hours of operation at the Supervised Consumption Site	HSS, BT4D	Complete	
Door to door Naloxone distribution, drug testing strips and harm reduction supplies	CTFN, MWSU, BT4D	Complete	
Three-day on-the-land gathering of men from across the Yukon	The Nelson Project Society		The Nelson Project Society supports at-risk Indigenous and non-Indigenous men across the Yukon, Northern B.C. and other cross-boundary areas. The gathering will include a supportive employer and service fair and will provide opportunities for at-risk men to get involved.
Hives for Watson Lake	Liard First Nation, MWSUS		Uses therapeutic and mentorship beekeeping as an avenue for engaging community members in activities focused on harm reduction, mental health and life promotion, suicide prevention, life skills modeling and increased community-nature connection. Focuses on engaging clients and community members who experience barriers to accessing services in an office setting. The innovative, nature-based and culturally appropriate

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			program will be open to all community members.
Roots of Hope Initiative Nihè dinch'è jì' wètàzul / It Is Better When You Are With Us suicide prevention training and ongoing awareness	Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Wellness Departme nt, Roots of Hope, MWSUS	Complete/Ongoing	Suicide prevention training in Dawson City as part of Suicide Prevention Week. Project builds on community expertise to implement suicide prevention interventions tailored to local context, and develops evidence-based best practices and suicide prevention guidelines and tools. Trainings help participants learn to recognize signs when someone needs help and teaches participants how to take appropriate and sensitive action.
Yukon First Nation Initiatives			
Outreach services	Kwanlin Dün First Nation	Ongoing	Provision of safe injection equipment, safe crack kits, condoms, naloxone kits and training and community needle drop box.
First Nation-led Mental Health and Opioid Use Public Awareness Campaign	CYFN, BT4D	Ongoing	CYFN working with Blood Ties Four Directions to develop a targeted, culturally appropriate public awareness campaign about opioid use and mental health in the Yukon, to complement other ongoing campaigns.
City of Whitehorse (COW) Initiatives			
Facility Signage	COW	In Progress	The City is working on placement of signage at facilities where naloxone kits are available and staff are trained in their use.
Staff training on use of Naloxone	COW	In Progress	First round completed in April and May - 33 employees trained

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Public communications to raise awareness on matters related to opioids	COW	Ongoing	The City has been using its communications platforms to share partner information/public education communications materials.
Updating of Naloxone kits and review of facility placement	COW	Complete	Upgraded kits in place in various City facilities.
Creation of a Safe Work Procedure for City employees responding to an overdose	COW	Complete	Distributed to City employees and posted for use.

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The Substance Use Health Emergency - Project Executive Committee consists of Yukon government representatives and allied partners working together on a coordinated response to the territory's substance use health emergency.

Form Prepared:		Drug Toxicity Deaths Coroner's Service:	Non-Fatal Drug/Alcohol Toxicity Events:	
Date: March 27, 2023			Hospital:	
Time: 11:30 am			Drug Poisoning ED Visits (WGH)	Alcohol ED Visits (WGH)
Previous Meeting: March 1, 2023		Year-to-Date Total: 2	38	79
		Previous Year Total: 25	140	677
	Services:		EMS:	
	Visits to Supervised Consumption Site:	Take Home Naloxone (# distributed):	Suspected Drug Poisoning	Alcohol Poisoning:
	Year-to-Date Total:	1867	64	116
	Previous Year Total:	7264	341	1076

Priority Issues/Flags:	Action Items:	
	What?	Who?

Communications:

On Monday, January 9, Christine McConnell circulated a request for input on the draft Substance Use Action Plan to all Project Executive Committee Members. The Substance Use Health Emergency Working Group would like to draw from the diverse expertise of the members of the Project Executive Committee members as a resource to provide feedback at various stages throughout the development of the plan. Please add your input to the priorities document you received and send responses to Christine.

Current Project List			
Yukon Government Lead Initiatives			
Project Description	Project Lead	Current Status	Status Update
Youth Roots: A Substance Use Prevention Gathering	Health Promotion Unit (HSS)	<p>Held November 16-17 at KDCC and via Zoom</p> <p>Questions/more info: youthroots@yukon.ca</p> <p>Video of sessions available at www.Yukon.ca/substance-use-health-emergency</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Event included people working in health promotion, education, youth recreation, research, policy, and community members from across the Yukon. Goal was to promote and support primary substance-use prevention, with an emphasis on long-term, upstream, creative approaches.
New Overdose Outreach Team/Opioid Treatment Services referral form/phone number expands outreach capacity via referrals from community partners (YHC, EMS, 405 Alexander, RCMP, others)	MWSU	Active	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MWSU started its Opioid Overdose Response team, have hired two new staff, two other new hires pending. Through Referred Care Clinic, will respond to people who have overdosed or at risk. Provides referrals, pathways to service, such as OAT or safe supply. Partners can now refer to OOT/OTS via phone/form. OOT also well connected to SCS.
Expansion of safe supply prescribing through the OTS program	MWSU	In Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> YRNA are working on their provisions to allow NPs to prescribe safe supply. Hiring is underway of additional staff to support expansion of safe supply prescribing and wraparound supports. Doubling prescribership for making this available to extend services beyond the Whitehorse RCC location.

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Needs assessment related to OTS and safe supply to gain a better understanding of drug use patterns in the territory and gaps in the provision of services to inform the expansion of OTS services, including safe supply.	MWSU	Complete	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assessment complete. Vink Consulting engaged stakeholders to inform the report.
Substance Use Action Plan	HSS	In Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Substance Use Health Emergency Working Group is comprised of representatives from Population and Public Health, HSS Strategic Policy and Planning and MWSU. This group is developing a Yukon's Substance Use Action Plan, including an implementation plan and performance measurement indicators, in partnership with YG and non-YG partners. Is expected to be released in the coming months. Expected in early 2023. Key priority areas include harm reduction, community safety, and treatment and aftercare, and prevention.
Safe Supply and Harm Reduction Vending Machines	HSS, MWSU	In Progress	
Patient Journey Mapping	MWSU	In Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Five maps completed, with several more in progress.
Expanding prescribing capability for NPs at OTS	HSS	In Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting with YRNA took place to discuss opportunities and benefits for expanding scope.
Sublocade prescribed to inmates at WCC instead of Suboxone/Methadone when appropriate	Justice, WCC, MWSU	In Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developing care pathway to ensure appropriate handover to OTS when inmate is discharged.
Public campaigns to increase awareness of services and supports	HSS	Active	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The SUHE comms/info working group, co-chaired by HSS, BT4D

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available from YG and external providers, and to decrease stigma around substance use.			<p>and CYFN, developed two campaigns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support is Here for You is a territory-wide campaign developed with community and health system partners to promote awareness of the many treatment, counselling and harm reduction services available for Yukoners from government and non-government organizations. • Put the Person First is a territory-wide anti-stigma awareness campaign encouraging Yukoners to replace stigmatized language with humanizing language when discussing substance use and those who use substances, and to consider how stigma prevents Yukoners from accessing services and seeking help. New imagery and tactics are expected in market in January.
Development of the physician and pharmacist Community of Practice Group regarding Safe Supply	MWSU	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meetings take place regularly.
Outreach Services provided at 405 Alexander and Housing First	MWSU, SS	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outreach Social Work Team supporting clients at 405 Alexander and Housing First.
Sublocade prescribed to OTS patients	MWSU	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clients at the OTS clinic and at 405 Alexander from outside of Whitehorse are being prescribed Sublocade as a trial for adding OTS to the communities.
Renovations to the Supervised Consumption Site to allow for the use of inhalants	HPW, HSS	Complete	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upgrades to the Supervised Consumption Site to accommodate inhalation (smoking) as a method of drug consumption are now complete. • Renovations to the ventilation system included upgrading the

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			HVAC system and the installation of an additional window and door.
Brave alarms (harm reduction motion sensor alarms) at 405 Alexander	HSS, SS	Complete	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alarms have been installed in all single bathroom and shower stalls.
Mental Health Summits I & II	HSS	Complete	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 500+ participants in a virtual format. Links to the presentations are on Yukon.ca Presentation topics were medically-focused, in addition to harm reduction, housing, social justice, and continuum of care, among many others. Much of what was heard at the Summit focused on transitional housing and housing gaps, as well as expanding opioid and land-based treatments to communities.
Increasing OTS physician days at the 405 Alexander	MWSU, RCC	Complete	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr. Bryant runs a full day clinic at 405 Alexander on Mondays and Thursdays.
Staff education at RCC for expanding opioid agonist therapy	MWSU, RCC	Complete	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Makes it easier for people to access higher doses sooner, which includes making injectable sublocade treatment available sooner and bypassing requirement to begin with tablets.

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Blood Ties Four Directions (BT4D)			
Knock for Naloxone campaign to get businesses and employees trained in how to use Naloxone.	BT4D	Ongoing	
Increased distribution of take home fentanyl testing kits in rural communities and Whitehorse	BT4D	Complete	
Expanding hours of operation of the Outreach van	BT4D	Complete	
Yukon Hospital Corporation (YHC)			
Discharge planning – making improvements to connecting patients to the right programs and services	YHC	In Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> YHC working with MWSU ER Nurse and other MWSU team members to improve access.
YHC Harm Reduction Strategy and supplies - will involve overdose prevention, infection prevention, discharge planning, partnerships with First Nations Health Programs, etc...	YHC	In Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presently have system where patients can register and receive supplies, looking to make this lower barrier to access as part of a structured strategy. YHC working with MWSU to improve access.
Suboxone/methadone daily dosing - in community hospitals, partnership with local medical clinic and dispensaries to ensure access to daily witnessed doses of OAT outside of clinic hours through emergency room	YHC	Ongoing	
Naloxone kits available for distribution through the ED	YHC	Ongoing	
Point of care urine drug testing- Ability to screen for UDOA and Fentanyl at point of care including at community hospitals	YHC	Ongoing	

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Whitehorse General Hospital has implemented a managed alcohol program for inpatients to provide low-barrier access to care.	YHC	Complete	
Emergency Medical Services (EMS)			
Readily available drug testing strips, spectrometers	EMS	In Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spectrometers here. Some operational training on how to use the machine has been completed. • Installing equipment in modified ambulance. • Specialist visiting to fully train team week of January 23. • Test strip distribution is underway. Aim is to place test strips in convenient locations. • Being distributed to PRU, 405 Alexander, several First Nations, local businesses and retail locations across YT. • Tests detect presence of many benzos and fentanyl, though not the quantity/concentration. • Developed with guidance from BC Centre for Substance Use. • Brochure offers instructions, includes QR code to online video tutorial.
Mobile Paramedic Unit Services	EMS	Underway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EMS has launched its paramedic response unit, which includes two paramedics plus one at 405 Alexander. • Exemption for mobile drug testing is a key objective.

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Focused on overdose response, prevention and supporting those at high risk of substance use in downtown Whitehorse. Collaborating HSS with Mobile Crisis team
Collaboration with BCEHS to explore best practices in prehospital care and share data and trends	EMS	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BCEHS provided YEMS access to internal data. Reviewed by EMS
Front line responder working group to explore strategies from a responder perspective	EMS	Ongoing	
EMS distribution of Naloxone	EMS	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expanding the program with FNWLF Providing public education on Naloxone administration
Partnership with BC with respect to intel on movement of drugs coming north through BC	EMS	Ongoing	
ERCO training for over the phone instructions on naloxone administration.	EMS	Complete	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Program operational
Expand EMS hours at the 405 Alexander	EMS	Complete	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expanded hours posted
Joint initiatives			
Working with Lifeguard digital health app to determine how their product could be used in the Yukon to reduce harm and prevent unintentional death.	HSS, BT4D, KDFN	In Progress	
Expanding drug testing to rural communities and increasing availability in Whitehorse	HSS, BT4D	In Progress	

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<p>Mobile Crisis Unit (Car 867)</p> <p>Collaboration between RCMP and MWSU to provide joint services to mental health calls by pairing a mental health nurse team with a trained RCMP team.</p>	<p>RCMP, HSS</p>	<p>Active</p>	<p>Will include peace officer and mental wellness worker to conduct mental wellness check or calls where vulnerable individuals require assistance</p> <p>Opioid Overdose Prevention Team, Paramedic Response Unit and Car 867 will soon meet regularly to remain coordinated.</p>
<p>Changing hours of operation at the Supervised Consumption Site</p>	<p>HSS, BT4D</p>	<p>Complete</p>	
<p>Door to door Naloxone distribution, drug testing strips and harm reduction supplies</p>	<p>CTFN, MWSU, BT4D</p>	<p>Complete</p>	
<p>Three-day on-the-land gathering of men from across the Yukon</p>	<p>The Nelson Project Society</p>		<p>The Nelson Project Society supports at-risk Indigenous and non-Indigenous men across the Yukon, Northern B.C. and other cross-boundary areas. The gathering will include a supportive employer and service fair and will provide opportunities for at-risk men to get involved.</p>
<p>Hives for Watson Lake</p>	<p>Liard First Nation, MWSUS</p>		<p>Uses therapeutic and mentorship beekeeping as an avenue for engaging community members in activities focused on harm reduction, mental health and life promotion, suicide prevention, life skills modeling and increased community-nature connection. Focuses on engaging clients and community members who experience barriers to accessing services in an office setting. The innovative, nature-based and culturally appropriate program will be open to all community members.</p>
<p>Roots of Hope Initiative Nihè dinch'è jì' wètàzul / It Is Better When You Are With Us suicide</p>	<p>Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Wellness</p>	<p>Complete/Ongoing</p>	<p>Suicide prevention training in Dawson City as part of Suicide Prevention Week. Project builds on community expertise to</p>

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prevention training and ongoing awareness	Department, Roots of Hope, MWSUS		implement suicide prevention interventions tailored to local context, and develops evidence-based best practices and suicide prevention guidelines and tools. Trainings help participants learn to recognize signs when someone needs help and teaches participants how to take appropriate and sensitive action.
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Yukon First Nation Initiatives

Outreach services	Kwanlin Dün First Nation	Ongoing	Provision of safe injection equipment, safe crack kits, condoms, naloxone kits and training and community needle drop box.
First Nation-led Mental Health and Opioid Use Public Awareness Campaign	CYFN, BT4D	Ongoing	CYFN working with Blood Ties Four Directions to develop a targeted, culturally appropriate public awareness campaign about opioid use and mental health in the Yukon, to complement other ongoing campaigns.

City of Whitehorse (COW) Initiatives

Facility Signage	COW	In Progress	The City is working on placement of signage at facilities where naloxone kits are available and staff are trained in their use.
Staff training on use of Naloxone	COW	In Progress	First round completed in April and May - 33 employees trained
Public communications to raise awareness on matters related to opioids	COW	Ongoing	The City has been using its communications platforms to share partner information/public education communications materials.
Updating of Naloxone kits and review of facility placement	COW	Complete	Upgraded kits in place in various City facilities.

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Creation of a Safe Work Procedure for City employees responding to an overdose	COW	Complete	Distributed to City employees and posted for use.
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The Substance Use Health Emergency - Project Executive Committee consists of Yukon government representatives and allied partners working together on a coordinated response to the territory's substance use health emergency.

Form Prepared:		Drug Toxicity Deaths Coroner's Service:	Non-Fatal Drug/Alcohol Toxicity Events:	
Date: May 24, 2023			Hospital:	
Time: 11:30 am			Drug Poisoning ED Visits (WGH)	Alcohol ED Visits (WGH)
Previous Meeting: April 27, 2023		Year-to-Date Total: 11	66	161
		Previous Year Total: 25	140	677
	Services:		EMS:	
	Visits to Supervised Consumption Site:	Take Home Naloxone (# distributed):	Suspected Drug Poisoning	Alcohol Poisoning:
	Year-to-Date Total:	1552	3453	141
Previous Year Total:	1997	7264	341	1076

Priority Issues/Flags:	Action Items:	
	What?	Who?

Communications:

On Monday, January 9, Christine McConnell circulated a request for input on the draft Substance Use Action Plan to all Project Executive Committee Members. The Substance Use Health Emergency Working Group would like to draw from the diverse expertise of the members of the Project Executive Committee members as a resource to provide feedback at various stages throughout the development of the plan. Please add your input to the priorities document you received and send responses to Christine.

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Situational Report

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Substance Use Strategy	HSS	In Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yukon's Substance Use Strategy is expected to be released this summer Key priority areas include harm reduction, community safety, and treatment and aftercare, and prevention.
Patient Journey Mapping	MWSU	In Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Five maps completed, with several more in progress.
Expanding prescribing capability for NPs at OTS	HSS	In Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting with YRNA took place to discuss opportunities and benefits for expanding scope.
Sublocade prescribed to inmates at WCC instead of Suboxone/Methadone when appropriate	Justice, WCC, MWSU	In Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developing care pathway to ensure appropriate handover to OTS when inmate is discharged.
Public campaigns to increase awareness of services and supports available from YG and external providers, and to decrease stigma around substance use.	HSS	Active	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The SUHE comms/info working group, co-chaired by HSS, BT4D and CYFN, developed two campaigns Support is Here for You is a territory-wide campaign developed with community and health system partners to promote awareness of the many treatment, counselling and harm reduction services available for Yukoners from government and non-government organizations. Put the Person First is a territory-wide anti-stigma awareness campaign encouraging Yukoners to replace stigmatized language with humanizing language when

Situational Report

			discussing substance use and those who use substances, and to consider how stigma prevents Yukoners from accessing services and seeking help.
Development of the physician and pharmacist Community of Practice Group regarding Safe Supply	MWSU	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meetings take place regularly.
Outreach Services provided at 405 Alexander and Housing First	MWSU, SS	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outreach Social Work Team supporting clients at 405 Alexander and Housing First.
Sublocade prescribed to OTS patients	MWSU	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clients at the OTS clinic and at 405 Alexander from outside of Whitehorse are being prescribed Sublocade as a trial for adding OTS to the communities.
Renovations to the Supervised Consumption Site to allow for the use of inhalants	HPW, HSS	Complete	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upgrades to the Supervised Consumption Site to accommodate inhalation (smoking) as a method of drug consumption are now complete. Renovations to the ventilation system included upgrading the HVAC system and the installation of an additional window and door.
Brave alarms (harm reduction motion sensor alarms) at 405 Alexander	HSS, SS	Complete	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alarms have been installed in all single bathroom and shower stalls.
Mental Health Summits I & II	HSS	Complete	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 500+ participants in a virtual format. Links to the presentations are on Yukon.ca Presentation topics were medically-focused, in addition to harm reduction, housing, social justice, and continuum of care, among many others.

Situational Report

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Much of what was heard at the Summit focused on transitional housing and housing gaps, as well as expanding opioid and land-based treatments to communities.
Increasing OTS physician days at the 405 Alexander	MWSU, RCC	Complete	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr. Bryant runs a full day clinic at 405 Alexander on Mondays and Thursdays.
Staff education at RCC for expanding opioid agonist therapy	MWSU, RCC	Complete	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Makes it easier for people to access higher doses sooner, which includes making injectable sublocade treatment available sooner and bypassing requirement to begin with tablets.
Blood Ties Four Directions (BT4D)			
Knock for Naloxone campaign to get businesses and employees trained in how to use Naloxone.	BT4D	Ongoing	
Increased distribution of take home fentanyl testing kits in rural communities and Whitehorse	BT4D	Complete	
Expanding hours of operation of the Outreach van	BT4D	Complete	
Yukon Hospital Corporation (YHC)			

Situational Report

Discharge planning – making improvements to connecting patients to the right programs and services	YHC	In Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> YHC working with MWSU ER Nurse and other MWSU team members to improve access.
YHC Harm Reduction Strategy and supplies - will involve overdose prevention, infection prevention, discharge planning, partnerships with First Nations Health Programs, etc...	YHC	In Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presently have system where patients can register and receive supplies, looking to make this lower barrier to access as part of a structured strategy. YHC working with MWSU to improve access.
Suboxone/methadone daily dosing - in community hospitals, partnership with local medical clinic and dispensaries to ensure access to daily witnessed doses of OAT outside of clinic hours through emergency room	YHC	Ongoing	
Naloxone kits available for distribution through the ED	YHC	Ongoing	
Point of care urine drug testing- Ability to screen for UDOA and Fentanyl at point of care including at community hospitals	YHC	Ongoing	
Whitehorse General Hospital has implemented a managed alcohol program for inpatients to provide low-barrier access to care.	YHC	Complete	
Emergency Medical Services (EMS)			
Readily available drug testing strips, spectrometers	EMS	In Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Drug testing with spectrometer started April 2023 at 405 Alexander and in the Paramedic Response Unit. Installing equipment in modified ambulance.

Situational Report

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specialist visiting to fully train team week of January 23. • Test strip distribution is underway. Aim is to place test strips in convenient locations. • Being distributed to PRU, 405 Alexander, several First Nations, local businesses and retail locations across YT. • Tests detect presence of many benzos and fentanyl, though not the quantity/concentration. • Developed with guidance from BC Centre for Substance Use. • Brochure offers instructions, includes QR code to online video tutorial.
Mobile Paramedic Unit Services	EMS	Underway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EMS has launched its paramedic response unit, which includes two paramedics plus one at 405 Alexander. • Mobile drug testing is a key objective. • Focused on overdose response, prevention and supporting those at high risk of substance use in downtown Whitehorse. • Collaborating HSS with Mobile Crisis team
Collaboration with BCEHS to explore best practices in prehospital care and share data and trends	EMS	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BCEHS provided YEMS access to internal data. Reviewed by EMS
Front line responder working group to explore strategies from a responder perspective	EMS	Ongoing	
EMS distribution of Naloxone	EMS	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expanding the program with FNWLF

Situational Report

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Providing public education on Naloxone administration
Partnership with BC with respect to intel on movement of drugs coming north through BC	EMS	Ongoing	
ERCO training for over the phone instructions on naloxone administration.	EMS	Complete	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Program operational
Expand EMS hours at the 405 Alexander	EMS	Complete	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expanded hours posted
Joint initiatives			
Working with Lifeguard digital health app to determine how their product could be used in the Yukon to reduce harm and prevent unintentional death.	HSS, BT4D, KDFN	In Progress	
Expanding drug testing to rural communities and increasing availability in Whitehorse	HSS, BT4D	In Progress	
Mobile Crisis Unit (Car 867) Collaboration between RCMP and MWSU to provide joint services to mental health calls by pairing a mental health nurse team with a trained RCMP team.	RCMP, HSS	Active	Includes peace officer and mental wellness worker to conduct mental wellness check or calls where vulnerable individuals require assistance Opioid Overdose Prevention Team, Paramedic Response Unit and Car 867 will meet regularly to remain coordinated.
Changing hours of operation at the Supervised Consumption Site	HSS, BT4D	Complete	
Door to door Naloxone distribution, drug testing strips and harm reduction supplies	CTFN, MWSU, BT4D	Complete	

Situational Report

Three-day on-the-land gathering of men from across the Yukon	The Nelson Project Society		The Nelson Project Society supports at-risk Indigenous and non-Indigenous men across the Yukon, Northern B.C. and other cross-boundary areas. The gathering will include a supportive employer and service fair and will provide opportunities for at-risk men to get involved.
Hives for Watson Lake	Liard First Nation, MWSUS		Uses therapeutic and mentorship beekeeping as an avenue for engaging community members in activities focused on harm reduction, mental health and life promotion, suicide prevention, life skills modeling and increased community-nature connection. Focuses on engaging clients and community members who experience barriers to accessing services in an office setting. The innovative, nature-based and culturally appropriate program will be open to all community members.
Roots of Hope Initiative Nihè dinch'è jì' wètàzul / It Is Better When You Are With Us suicide prevention training and ongoing awareness	Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Wellness Department, Roots of Hope, MWSUS	Complete/Ongoing	Suicide prevention training in Dawson City as part of Suicide Prevention Week. Project builds on community expertise to implement suicide prevention interventions tailored to local context, and develops evidence-based best practices and suicide prevention guidelines and tools. Trainings help participants learn to recognize signs when someone needs help and teaches participants how to take appropriate and sensitive action.
Yukon First Nation Initiatives			
Outreach services	Kwanlin Dün First Nation	Ongoing	Provision of safe injection equipment, safe crack kits, condoms, naloxone kits

Situational Report

			and training and community needle drop box.
First Nation-led Mental Health and Opioid Use Public Awareness Campaign	CYFN, BT4D	Ongoing	CYFN working with Blood Ties Four Directions to develop a targeted, culturally appropriate public awareness campaign about opioid use and mental health in the Yukon, to complement other ongoing campaigns.
City of Whitehorse (COW) Initiatives			
Facility Signage	COW	In Progress	The City is working on placement of signage at facilities where naloxone kits are available and staff are trained in their use.
Staff training on use of Naloxone	COW	In Progress	First round completed in April and May - 33 employees trained
Public communications to raise awareness on matters related to opioids	COW	Ongoing	The City has been using its communications platforms to share partner information/public education communications materials.
Updating of Naloxone kits and review of facility placement	COW	Complete	Upgraded kits in place in various City facilities.
Creation of a Safe Work Procedure for City employees responding to an overdose	COW	Complete	Distributed to City employees and posted for use.

Situational Report

The Substance Use Health Emergency - Project Executive Committee consists of Yukon government representatives and allied partners working together on a coordinated response to the territory's substance use health emergency.

Form Prepared:		Drug Toxicity Deaths Coroner's Service:	Non-Fatal Drug/Alcohol Toxicity Events:	
Date: July 20, 2023			Hospital:	
Time: 11:30 am			Drug Poisoning ED Visits (WGH)	Alcohol ED Visits (WGH)
Previous Meeting: April 27, 2023		Year-to-Date Total: 12	98	283
		Previous Year Total: 25	140	677
Year-to-Date Total:	Services:		EMS:	
	Visits to Supervised Consumption Site:	Take Home Naloxone (# distributed):	Suspected Drug Poisoning	Alcohol Poisoning:
	2818	4318	179	379
Previous Year Total:	1997	7264	341	1076

Priority Issues/Flags:

Action Items:

What?

Who?

Communications:

On Monday, January 9, Christine McConnell circulated a request for input on the draft Substance Use Action Plan to all Project Executive Committee Members. The Substance Use Health Emergency Working Group would like to draw from the diverse expertise of the members of the Project Executive Committee members as a resource to provide feedback at various stages throughout the development of the plan. Please add your input to the priorities document you received and send responses to Christine.

Current Project List			
Yukon Government Lead Initiatives			
Project Description	Project Lead	Current Status	Status Update
Youth Roots: A Substance Use Prevention Gathering	Health Promotion Unit (HSS)	<p>Held November 16-17 at KDCC and via Zoom</p> <p>Questions/more info: youthroots@yukon.ca</p> <p>Video of sessions available at www.Yukon.ca/substance-use-health-emergency</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Event included people working in health promotion, education, youth recreation, research, policy, and community members from across the Yukon. Goal was to promote and support primary substance-use prevention, with an emphasis on long-term, upstream, creative approaches.
New Overdose Outreach Team/Opioid Treatment Services referral form/phone number expands outreach capacity via referrals from community partners (YHC, EMS, 405 Alexander, RCMP, others)	MWSU	Active	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MWSU started its Opioid Overdose Response team, have hired two new staff, two other new hires pending. Through Referred Care Clinic, will respond to people who have overdosed or at risk. Provides referrals, pathways to service, such as OAT or safe supply. Partners can now refer to OOT/OTS via phone/form. OOT also well connected to SCS.
Expansion of safe supply prescribing through the OTS program	MWSU	In Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> YRNA are working on their provisions to allow NPs to prescribe safe supply. Hiring is underway of additional staff to support expansion of safe supply prescribing and wraparound supports. Doubling prescribership for making this available to extend services beyond the Whitehorse RCC location.

Situational Report

Needs assessment related to OTS and safe supply to gain a better understanding of drug use patterns in the territory and gaps in the provision of services to inform the expansion of OTS services, including safe supply.	MWSU	Complete	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assessment complete. Vink Consulting engaged stakeholders to inform the report.
Substance Use Health Emergency Strategy	HSS	In Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yukon's Substance Use Health Emergency Strategy is expected to be released in August 2023 Key priority areas include harm reduction, community safety and wellbeing, and treatment and recovery, and prevention.
Patient Journey Mapping	MWSU	In Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Five maps completed, with several more in progress.
Expanding prescribing capability for NPs at OTS	HSS	In Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting with YRNA took place to discuss opportunities and benefits for expanding scope.
Sublocade prescribed to inmates at WCC instead of Suboxone/Methadone when appropriate	Justice, WCC, MWSU	In Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developing care pathway to ensure appropriate handover to OTS when inmate is discharged.
Public campaigns to increase awareness of services and supports available from YG and external providers, and to decrease stigma around substance use.	HSS	Active	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The SUHE comms/info working group, co-chaired by HSS, BT4D and CYFN, developed two campaigns Support is Here for You is a territory-wide campaign developed with community and health system partners to promote awareness of the many treatment, counselling and harm reduction services available for Yukoners from government and non-government organizations. Put the Person First is a territory-wide anti-stigma awareness campaign encouraging Yukoners to replace stigmatized language with humanizing language when

Situational Report

			discussing substance use and those who use substances, and to consider how stigma prevents Yukoners from accessing services and seeking help.
Development of the physician and pharmacist Community of Practice Group regarding Safe Supply	MWSU	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meetings take place regularly.
Outreach Services provided at 405 Alexander and Housing First	MWSU, SS	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outreach Social Work Team supporting clients at 405 Alexander and Housing First.
Sublocade prescribed to OTS patients	MWSU	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clients at the OTS clinic and at 405 Alexander from outside of Whitehorse are being prescribed Sublocade as a trial for adding OTS to the communities.
Renovations to the Supervised Consumption Site to allow for the use of inhalants	HPW, HSS	Complete	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upgrades to the Supervised Consumption Site to accommodate inhalation (smoking) as a method of drug consumption are now complete. Renovations to the ventilation system included upgrading the HVAC system and the installation of an additional window and door.
Brave alarms (harm reduction motion sensor alarms) at 405 Alexander	HSS, SS	Complete	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alarms have been installed in all single bathroom and shower stalls.
Mental Health Summits I & II	HSS	Complete	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 500+ participants in a virtual format. Links to the presentations are on Yukon.ca Presentation topics were medically-focused, in addition to harm reduction, housing, social justice, and continuum of care, among many others.

Situational Report

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Much of what was heard at the Summit focused on transitional housing and housing gaps, as well as expanding opioid and land-based treatments to communities.
Increasing OTS physician days at the 405 Alexander	MWSU, RCC	Complete	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr. Bryant runs a full day clinic at 405 Alexander on Mondays and Thursdays.
Staff education at RCC for expanding opioid agonist therapy	MWSU, RCC	Complete	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Makes it easier for people to access higher doses sooner, which includes making injectable sublocade treatment available sooner and bypassing requirement to begin with tablets.
Blood Ties Four Directions (BT4D)			
Knock for Naloxone campaign to get businesses and employees trained in how to use Naloxone.	BT4D	Ongoing	
Increased distribution of take home fentanyl testing kits in rural communities and Whitehorse	BT4D	Complete	
Expanding hours of operation of the Outreach van	BT4D	Complete	
Yukon Hospital Corporation (YHC)			

Situational Report

Discharge planning – making improvements to connecting patients to the right programs and services	YHC	In Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> YHC working with MWSU ER Nurse and other MWSU team members to improve access.
YHC Harm Reduction Strategy and supplies - will involve overdose prevention, infection prevention, discharge planning, partnerships with First Nations Health Programs, etc...	YHC	In Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presently have system where patients can register and receive supplies, looking to make this lower barrier to access as part of a structured strategy. YHC working with MWSU to improve access.
Suboxone/methadone daily dosing - in community hospitals, partnership with local medical clinic and dispensaries to ensure access to daily witnessed doses of OAT outside of clinic hours through emergency room	YHC	Ongoing	
Naloxone kits available for distribution through the ED	YHC	Ongoing	
Point of care urine drug testing- Ability to screen for UDOA and Fentanyl at point of care including at community hospitals	YHC	Ongoing	
Whitehorse General Hospital has implemented a managed alcohol program for inpatients to provide low-barrier access to care.	YHC	Complete	
Emergency Medical Services (EMS)			
Readily available drug testing strips, spectrometers	EMS	In Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Drug testing with spectrometer started April 2023 at 405 Alexander and in the Paramedic Response Unit. Installing equipment in modified ambulance.

Situational Report

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specialist visiting to fully train team week of January 23. • Test strip distribution is underway. Aim is to place test strips in convenient locations. • Being distributed to PRU, 405 Alexander, several First Nations, local businesses and retail locations across YT. • Tests detect presence of many benzos and fentanyl, though not the quantity/concentration. • Developed with guidance from BC Centre for Substance Use. • Brochure offers instructions, includes QR code to online video tutorial.
Mobile Paramedic Unit Services	EMS	Underway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EMS has launched its paramedic response unit, which includes two paramedics plus one at 405 Alexander. • Mobile drug testing is a key objective. • Focused on overdose response, prevention and supporting those at high risk of substance use in downtown Whitehorse. • Collaborating HSS with Mobile Crisis team
Collaboration with BCEHS to explore best practices in prehospital care and share data and trends	EMS	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BCEHS provided YEMS access to internal data. Reviewed by EMS
Front line responder working group to explore strategies from a responder perspective	EMS	Ongoing	
EMS distribution of Naloxone	EMS	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expanding the program with FNWLF

Situational Report

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Providing public education on Naloxone administration
Partnership with BC with respect to intel on movement of drugs coming north through BC	EMS	Ongoing	
ERCO training for over the phone instructions on naloxone administration.	EMS	Complete	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Program operational
Expand EMS hours at the 405 Alexander	EMS	Complete	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expanded hours posted
Joint initiatives			
Working with Lifeguard digital health app to determine how their product could be used in the Yukon to reduce harm and prevent unintentional death.	HSS, BT4D, KDFN	In Progress	
Expanding drug testing to rural communities and increasing availability in Whitehorse	HSS, BT4D	In Progress	
Mobile Crisis Unit (Car 867) Collaboration between RCMP and MWSU to provide joint services to mental health calls by pairing a mental health nurse team with a trained RCMP team.	RCMP, HSS	Active	Includes peace officer and mental wellness worker to conduct mental wellness check or calls where vulnerable individuals require assistance Opioid Overdose Prevention Team, Paramedic Response Unit and Car 867 will meet regularly to remain coordinated.
Changing hours of operation at the Supervised Consumption Site	HSS, BT4D	Complete	
Door to door Naloxone distribution, drug testing strips and harm reduction supplies	CTFN, MWSU, BT4D	Complete	

Situational Report

Three-day on-the-land gathering of men from across the Yukon	The Nelson Project Society		The Nelson Project Society supports at-risk Indigenous and non-Indigenous men across the Yukon, Northern B.C. and other cross-boundary areas. The gathering will include a supportive employer and service fair and will provide opportunities for at-risk men to get involved.
Hives for Watson Lake	Liard First Nation, MWSUS		Uses therapeutic and mentorship beekeeping as an avenue for engaging community members in activities focused on harm reduction, mental health and life promotion, suicide prevention, life skills modeling and increased community-nature connection. Focuses on engaging clients and community members who experience barriers to accessing services in an office setting. The innovative, nature-based and culturally appropriate program will be open to all community members.
Roots of Hope Initiative Nihè dinch'è jì' wètàzul / It Is Better When You Are With Us suicide prevention training and ongoing awareness	Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Wellness Department, Roots of Hope, MWSUS	Complete/Ongoing	Suicide prevention training in Dawson City as part of Suicide Prevention Week. Project builds on community expertise to implement suicide prevention interventions tailored to local context, and develops evidence-based best practices and suicide prevention guidelines and tools. Trainings help participants learn to recognize signs when someone needs help and teaches participants how to take appropriate and sensitive action.
Yukon First Nation Initiatives			
Outreach services	Kwanlin Dün First Nation	Ongoing	Provision of safe injection equipment, safe crack kits, condoms, naloxone kits

Situational Report

			and training and community needle drop box.
First Nation-led Mental Health and Opioid Use Public Awareness Campaign	CYFN, BT4D	Ongoing	CYFN working with Blood Ties Four Directions to develop a targeted, culturally appropriate public awareness campaign about opioid use and mental health in the Yukon, to complement other ongoing campaigns.
City of Whitehorse (COW) Initiatives			
Facility Signage	COW	In Progress	The City is working on placement of signage at facilities where naloxone kits are available and staff are trained in their use.
Staff training on use of Naloxone	COW	In Progress	First round completed in April and May - 33 employees trained
Public communications to raise awareness on matters related to opioids	COW	Ongoing	The City has been using its communications platforms to share partner information/public education communications materials.
Updating of Naloxone kits and review of facility placement	COW	Complete	Upgraded kits in place in various City facilities.
Creation of a Safe Work Procedure for City employees responding to an overdose	COW	Complete	Distributed to City employees and posted for use.

Yukon Substance Use Health Emergency Sitrep

The Substance Use Health Emergency - Project Executive Committee consists of Yukon government representatives and allied partners working together on a coordinated response to the territory's substance use health emergency.

Drug toxicity deaths

Coroner's service:

2022: drug toxicity deaths: 8

2021: drug toxicity deaths: 23 (number could continue to rise with final toxicology results)

Non-fatal drug toxicity or alcohol events

Hospital:

2021 (Jan-Oct): drug poisoning* ED visits: 91

2021 (Jan-Oct): drug poisoning* hospitalizations: 28

=====

2021 (Jan-Oct): Hospitalizations caused by alcohol: 307

2021 (Jan-Oct): ED visits caused by alcohol: 1,971

EMS:

2022: suspected drug poisonings: 46

2021: suspected drug poisonings: 256

**poisoning by narcotics, hallucinogens, and/or benzodiazepines*

Services

Supervised Consumption Site:

2021 (Oct-Dec): 77

2022: 60

Take Home Naloxone:

2022: Naloxone kits distributed: 1,826

2022: Previous month (Feb): 1,036

Current Project List			
Yukon Government Lead Initiatives			
Project description	Project lead	Status	Status update
Prescribing safe supply through the Opioid Treatment Services (OTS) program	MWSU	Operationalized	
Development of the physician and pharmacist Community of Practice Group regarding Safe Supply	MWSU	Operationalized	
Expansion of safe supply prescribing through the Opioid Treatment Services (OTS) program	MWSU	In Progress	
Needs assessment to inform expansion of all OTS services, including safe supply, within Whitehorse and in Communities.	HSS	Planning Phase	Currently developing scope of needs assessment.
Public awareness and educational campaign addressing the toxic drug supply present in Yukon communities and Whitehorse	HSS	Ongoing	Tender in progress to an external agency to include creative (print, digital and radio) and ad placements
Renovations to the Supervised Consumption Site to allow for the use of inhalants	HPW/HSS	In Progress	Target completion late spring
Developing a renewed Opioid Action Plan	HSS	In Progress	
Installing Brave alarms (harm reduction motion sensor alarms) at WES	HSS/SS	In Progress	
Mental Health Summit Phase I	HSS	Complete	500+ participants in a virtual format. What We Heard report is complete. Links to the webinars are on Yukon.ca
Mental Health Summit Phase II	HSS	Planning Phase	Initial Committee formed and planning session set for give date
Safe Supply and Harm Reduction Vending Machines	HSS/MWSU	In Progress	
Patient Journey Mapping	MWSU	In Progress	Two maps completed, several more in progress

Current Project List			
Yukon Government Lead Initiatives			
Project description	Project lead	Status	Status update
Expanding prescribing capability for NPs at OTS	HSS	In Progress	
Outreach Services provided at Whitehorse Emergency Shelter (WES) and Housing First	MWSU/SS	Operationalized	Outreach Social Work Team supporting clients at WES and Housing First
Increasing OTS physician days at WES	MWSU/RCC/WES	Operationalized	Dr. Bryant runs a full day clinic at WES on Thursdays. As of March 28 th the full day clinic will also be on Mondays.
Sublocade prescribed to OTS patients	MWSU	Operationalized	Clients at the OTS clinic and at WES from outside of Whitehorse are being prescribed Sublocade as a trial for adding OTS to the communities.
Sublocade prescribed to inmates at WCC instead on Suboxone/Methadone when appropriate	Justice/WCC/MWSU	In Progress	Developing care pathway to ensure appropriate handover to OTS when inmate is discharged. Inmates may currently be receiving and being moved to Sublocade.
Blood Ties Four Directions (BT4D)			
Knock for Naloxone campaign to get businesses and employees trained in how to use Naloxone.	BT4D	In Progress	
Increased distribution of take home fentanyl testing kits in rural communities and Whitehorse	BT4D	Operationalized	
Expanding hours of operation of the Outreach van	BT4D	Operationalized	
Yukon Hospital Corporation (YHC)			
Harm reduction supplies - presently have system where patients can register and receive supplies, but exploring if	YHC	In Progress	

Current Project List			
Yukon Government Lead Initiatives			
Project description	Project lead	Status	Status update
possible to make this lower barrier to access as part of a structured strategy			
Discharge planning – making improvements to connecting patients to the right programs and services	YHC	In Progress	
Yukon Hospital Corporation is in the early stages of developing a Harm Reduction Strategy. Strategy will involve components relating to overdose prevention, infection prevention, discharge planning, partnerships with First Nations Health Programs, etc...	YHC	In Progress	YHC currently participates in harm reduction strategies in an ad hoc way. Considering the prevalence of opioid and substance use challenges within our population there is a need to be more intentional about what harm reduction services YHC offers and how we provide them.
Suboxone/methadone daily dosing - in community hospitals, partnership with local medical clinic and dispensaries to ensure access to daily witnessed doses of OAT outside of clinic hours through emergency room	YHC	Operationalized	
Naloxone kits available for distribution through the ED	YHC	Operationalized	
Point of care urine drug testing- Ability to screen for UDOA and Fentanyl at point of care including at community hospitals	YHC	Operationalized	
Whitehorse General Hospital has implemented a managed	YHC	Operationalized	

Current Project List			
Yukon Government Lead Initiatives			
Project description	Project lead	Status	Status update
alcohol program for inpatients to provide low-barrier access to care.			
Emergency Medical Services (EMS)			
Expand EMS hours at WES	EMS	In Progress	
Readily available drug testing strips, spectrometers	EMS	In Progress	Supplies have been ordered, will arrive in 10-12 weeks
Partnership with BC with respect to intel on movement of drugs coming north through BC	EMS	Ongoing	
Joint initiatives			
Working with Lifeguard digital health app to determine how their product could be used in the Yukon to reduce harm and prevent unintentional death.	HSS, BT4D, KDFN	In Progress	
Expanding drug testing to rural communities and increasing availability in Whitehorse	HSS, BT4D	In Progress	
Mobile Crisis Unit	RCMP, HSS	In Progress	Collaboration between RCMP and MWSU to provide joint services to mental health calls by pairing a mental health nurse team with a trained RCMP team.
Changing hours of operation at the Supervised Consumption Site	HSS, BT4D	Operationalized	
Door to door Naloxone distribution, drug testing strips and harm reduction supplies	CTFN, MWSU, BT4D	Operationalized	

