

From: [Harvey, Brian](#)
To: [Downey, Claudia](#)
Subject: FW: Updated KMs for app before interviews
Date: Thursday, September 20, 2012 2:17:00 PM
Attachments: [Key Messages - Nat -GS - Sept 20-12 - FINAL.doc](#)

TRIM

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From: Carter, Carol Ann
Sent: 20 September 2012 10:11
To: Dutton, Sean; Gover, Aubrey; Harvey, Brian
Subject: Fw: Updated KMs for app before interviews

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Sent Via BlackBerry

From: Hunt, Michelle
To: Hammond, Lynn; Power, Glenda; Howard, Jacquelyn; Collingwood, Jennifer; Brown, Milly; Tulk, Jennifer; Carter, Carol Ann
Sent: Thu Sep 20 10:10:40 2012
Subject: Updated KMs for app before interviews

Min Johnson has been briefed on the meeting that took place in the community yesterday afternoon. We have added the following key points from this meeting. We will wait for approval before she proceeds with interviews.

- A community meeting took place Wednesday, September 19. This meeting was called by Health Commission staff, which is operated by the band. In attendance were Health Commission employees, CYFS, L-GRHA and about 10 parents from the community.
- The discussions were lead by the parents and focused on how they could keep their children safe within the community. Given the importance of the community taking responsibility in this area this was extremely positive. Service providers were there to identify what more they could be doing to support the parents in their efforts.

- Parents have agreed to continue meeting and CYFS has been pursuing a proposal to bring expertise from one of the out-of-province treatment centres to provide parenting programs.
- A new Mental Health Counselor under the Mental Health Addiction Services of Labrador-Grenfell Health will be starting in the community on October 1 and will also focus on parent programming.

Michelle Hunt, BPR, BBA

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Key Messages**Natuashish - gas sniffing****September 19, 2012****• Extent of Problem:**

- We are not aware that there has been any increase in the number of children engaging in solvent abuse.

- This is a very serious issue and very concerning for the children involved, their parents and this community.

- Solutions are not easy or short term both from the perspective of the individuals requiring treatment and for the community generally.

- It can't be solved by individuals or one agencyCYFS and health services (under both LGRHA and the Band) continue to work together on identifying and implementing solutions.

• What is CYFS's role:

- If parents are taking the necessary steps to ensure the safety and well-being of their child/youth, then there is no reason for CYFS to become involved.

- If parents are unable to ensure their child's safety, and there could be any number of reasons for this, such as the severity of the child's behaviour, as is the case in some situations in Natuashish, CYFS works with these parents to help keep their children safe.

• What is CYFS doing:

- In terms of solvent abuse in the community of Natuashish, CYFS understands this is very serious issue and our staff are already going out on every referral that is related to solvent abuse and assesses it accordingly.

- As result of assessments, CYFS could assist parents to keep their children safe by:

- providing supports to parents such as identifying ways they can keep their child safe (e.g. seeking out the children in the night-time) or working out a safety plan with family members who can assist them in monitoring the child to prevent them from solvent abuse.
- if a parent is unable to keep their child safe, and the reality is some of these children are beyond parental control at this point, then in order to ensure the overall safety of the child CYFS can remove the child from the home:
 - the child may then be placed in foster care, the majority of whom are in the community, as the foster parents have a different relationship with the child and may have different skills which can assist in keeping the child safe; or,
 - depending on the severity of an individual case, CYFS may need to send the child (who is our in-care) out-of-province for treatment
 - For example Wood's Homes (Calgary, Alberta) – accredited community owned and operated children's mental health centre. Provide 34 programs

and services for at-risk children, youth and their families. Key services include residential treatment, foster care, family stabilization, a homeless shelter, a counseling center and a youth transition program. It includes a short aftercare component within the community.

- CYFS is also developing its own specialized foster care program as part of our continuum of care strategy announced in Budget 2012 which will provide similar services to some of those we currently referring out of province.

- **What is being done to address the broader issue:**

- CYFS is working with health officials from both LGRHA and the Health Commission under the Band to identify how we can support the community and parents in addressing this issue.
- CYFS is prepared to bring someone from the Woods Centre or some other treatment facility into the community to provide additional supports based on their expertise. The idea is for Woods staff to be in the community for 2-3 week period to deliver a parenting skills program to all parents in the community and not just to parents with children in care.
- We have already had discussions on this with the Health Commission. *[This has been in the works for 2 weeks and proposing CYFS fund]*
- CYFS also started a Steering Committee and Working Group including First Nation representation to work jointly on improving how CYFS services will be delivered within Innu communities. A MOU, for how we will work together, is being drafted for consideration of all parties.
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- The discussions were lead by the parents and focused on how they could keep their children safe within the community. Given the importance of the community taking responsibility in this area this was extremely positive. Service providers were there to identify what more they could be doing to support the parents in their efforts.
- Parents have agreed to continue meeting and CYFS has been pursuing a proposal to bring expertise from one of the out-of-province treatment centres to provide parenting programs.
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- **Data on CYFS Statistics Attached**