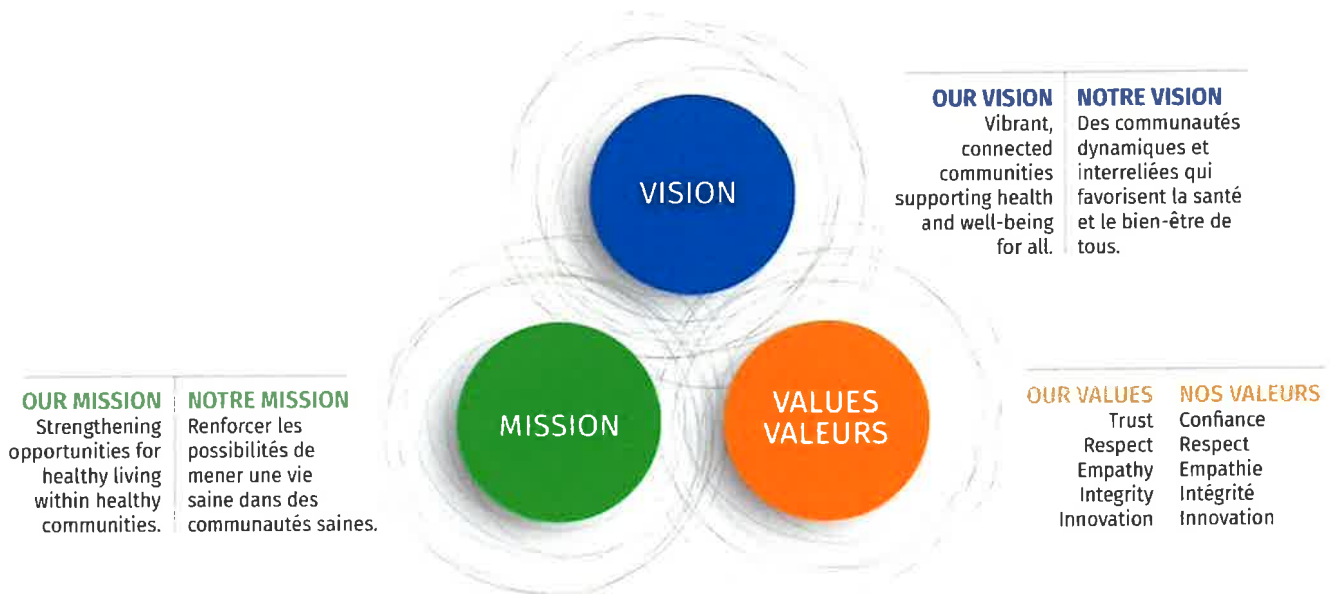




Medical Officer of Health/Chief Executive Officer Report to the Board of Health



We Are Public Health - Nous sommes la santé publique

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Prepared by
Dr. Lianne Catton, MOH/CEO
October 24, 2024
BOH Meeting

General Report

1. Board of Health (BOH)

Strengthening Public Health

The Strengthening Public Health Strategy aims to optimize capacity, stability, and sustainability in the public health sector. The initiatives under the Strengthening Public Health strategy in the province continue.

Ontario Public Health Standards (OPHS): Review continues as we await further drafts after feedback was shared by local public health in June. Capacity concerns continue as the review did not reflect a decrease in the accountabilities that will be needed reflective of the funding constraints expected. Local public health will need to continue to prioritize work to be done across the province.

Supporting Voluntary Mergers: There continues to be work and discussions regarding Ministry support for voluntary mergers, with four groups looking to merge.

Public Health Funding Review: Continue to anticipate 1% provincial funding increase for 2025 and 2026, unless approved for a voluntary merger. The letter from the 7 Northern MOHs regarding unique perspectives important to ensuring a provincial public health funding strategy does not increase inequities for the North has been endorsed by all & Boards of Health, and many municipalities.

Ministry Reporting

The 2023-24 Annual Reconciliation Report has been completed. The report is a requirement for the AIDS Bureau funding. Work has begun on the Q3 2024 Standards Activity Report. Boards of Health are required to submit quarterly as per the Ontario Public Health Standards: Requirements for Programs, Services, and Accountability and to communicate quarterly financial forecasts and interim information on program achievements. Through these reports, boards of health are required to identify risks, emergency issues, changes in local context, and programmatic and financial adjustments in program plans identified in the 2024 Annual Service Plan and Budget Submission. The report is due November 12. The annual risk assessment presentation is later in today's agenda.

Infrastructure

Work continues to address the HVAC and boiler system at Timmins main office.

The need for space, as well as ensuring effective and efficient space for staff and clients, remains a priority and continues to highlight the need for a new building in Timmins.

In August 2024, a total of 1196 individuals visited the main PHU building in Timmins and 121 individuals presented to reception at the Timcor site. In September a total of 1010 individuals visited the main PHU building in Timmins and 115 individuals presented at the Timcor site.

Individuals come to the offices for various reasons such as:

- Access PHU programs and services (sexual health, immunizations, dental services, breastfeeding support, harm reduction, septic and water, etc.)
- Collect information (e.g. immunization records) or supplies (e.g. water bottles for sampling)
- Deliver mail and supplies
- Collect mail and packages
- Pick up or return vaccines from health care providers and facilities

2. Ministry of Health Engagement/Leadership Roles

Continued involvement at many tables includes continued role as chair for the Council of Medical Officer of Health. (COMOH) Section; most recent meeting September 25; COMOH Executive meeting September 13 and October 11, the Public Health Leadership Table (PHLT) on October 8, and Public Health Sector Coordination Table on September 10. The Association of Local Public Health Agencies (alPHa) Board meeting was held on September 20; and the alPHa executive met on October 18, 2024. Northern MOH group continues to meet monthly as a group, as well as monthly with the northern Associate Chief Medical Officers of Health from the Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health (OCMOH). The northern MOHs have been engaged by the Ministry to discuss revisions to the proposed requirement in the Health Equity Standard - A Review of Relationships with Indigenous Communities Protocol.

Corporate Services

1. Human Resources

Professional Development & Health and Safety

We continue with N95 mask fit testing with 10 staff being fit tested since the previous update.

Recruitment

In the time since the last Board of Health meeting, one position has been filled. The successful candidate will be an Administrative Assistant that will support our Hearst office. There have been two resignations during the same period. One for an Administrative Assistant and another for a Health Promoter, both located in the Timmins office.

Staffing Summary - Vacancies

As of September 18, 2024, there were opportunities available for individuals looking to join the team, after careful assessment of program needs and risks as per the 2024 budget briefing note.

The PHU is currently seeking:

- Four Public Health Nurses
- One Public Health Physician
- One Public Health Inspector

Labour Relations

Held Labour Management meetings with Unions, no outstanding issues have arisen, and we continue to foster a positive relationship through frequent conversation when any issues are brought forward.

Vaccine Preventable Diseases and COVID-19 Response Program

1. Vaccine Preventable Diseases (VPD)

Routine Immunization

In August, each PHU office offered routine immunization clinics, focusing on the delivery of vaccines to the general population. There were 197 clients served across all PHU offices in routine VPD clinics with

347 vaccines administered.

School Vaccine Program

During the summer, the immunization team collaborated with Timiskaming Health Unit (THU) to align resources for the Grade 7 School-Based Vaccine Program, working to offer a unified delivery this fall for all shared school boards. In early September, Grade 7 vaccine packages including facts sheets, and a consent form were distributed to parents/guardians and students, and the nurses are now actively scheduling upcoming vaccine clinics for the first school clinics this fall. Nurses have already begun classroom presentations for Grade 7 students, providing information about the vaccines and creating a supportive environment for students to ask questions and prepare for their clinic day.

Vaccine Distribution

The administrative assistants in the Vaccine Preventable Disease (VPD) program play a vital role and work closely with the nursing team to meticulously maintain vaccine fridges, monitoring temperatures and ensuring compliance with the Ministry's vaccine storage and handling requirements. This attention extends to the transportation of vaccines, where maintaining appropriate temperatures is critical. The PHU is responsible for distributing vaccines to community partners across the region, including primary care offices, long-term care homes, Aboriginal Health Access Centres, First Nation communities, and communities along the James Bay and Hudson Bay. This distribution process requires careful management to ensure vaccines are properly packed and transported at the correct temperature. The Administrative Assistants coordinate courier services and must align flight schedules to ensure timely delivery to remote and coastal communities. Staff frequently come in early to pack vaccines and arrange courier services to meet early flights and mitigate the risk of vaccine excursions.

Immunization of School Pupils Act (ISPA)

The PHU continues to support schools and families to meet their needs and the requirements of the Immunization of School Pupils Act (ISPA). Throughout the year, PHU staff work to ensure that parents and families receive supportive care, whether it be immunizations, education, and resources to make informed choices, or assistance with ensuring they complete valid exemptions. The PHU remains committed to supporting families and students, and continues to work closely with schools, principals, and school boards.

Social Media:



Do you have a child in Grade 7 this fall?

If so, you are probably busy helping them get organized for school, but did you know that you should also

prepare them for immunizations? Grade 7-12 students are eligible to receive the human papillomavirus, hepatitis B, and meningococcal vaccines. Be on the look out for consents which will be sent home in early September. For more information, visit phu.fyi/school-vaccines.

COVID-19, Influenza and RSV Response and Testing

Provincially the older adult vaccine effort is almost complete with 70% of LTCH clients immunized for RSV. Flu and COVID vaccines have arrived. Vaccines will be available to the general public beginning October 28th. At the beginning of October the Ministry shared a Test-to-Treat approach for COVID-19 test eligibility. COVID-19 testing, will now align with COVID-19 treatment eligibility. Long-term care homes and some congregate living settings will continue to be eligible to acquire test kits to support outbreak, prevention and management.

Local COVID-19 and Influenza Activity

COVID-19

- COVID-19 case data is no longer updated
- There were 2 new COVID-19 outbreaks, similar to the previous week. There were 2 declared over.

Fall Respiratory Clinics

Throughout the summer, teams have been preparing for the upcoming fall respiratory clinics, which will include the rollout of COVID-19, influenza, and RSV vaccines. Sites for community clinics have been secured across the region, with Influenza and Covid-19 clinics scheduled for late October 2024. In preparation, communications efforts have been planned, including social media campaigns, newspaper ads, handouts, and clinic posters. Social media calendars and website updates are being developed to reflect plans for the season, along with any new updates from the Ministry.

Nurses across the health unit are completing training for the fall vaccine rollout, ensuring they are well-prepared for the upcoming season. While the influenza and COVID-19 campaigns are similar to last year, significant changes are expected with the RSV program. Ontario is continuing its high-risk adult RSV vaccine program, with eligibility for individuals who are 60 years and who are receiving dialysis, transplant recipients, experiencing homelessness, identify as Indigenous, First Nation or Metis and residents of long-term care homes, Elder care lodges, retirement homes.

For the 2024-2025 season, the Ministry has expanded RSV immunization to include infants born in or before the RSV season and young children up to 24 months who are vulnerable to severe illness. Immunization for pregnant individuals is also available, based on discussion with healthcare providers.

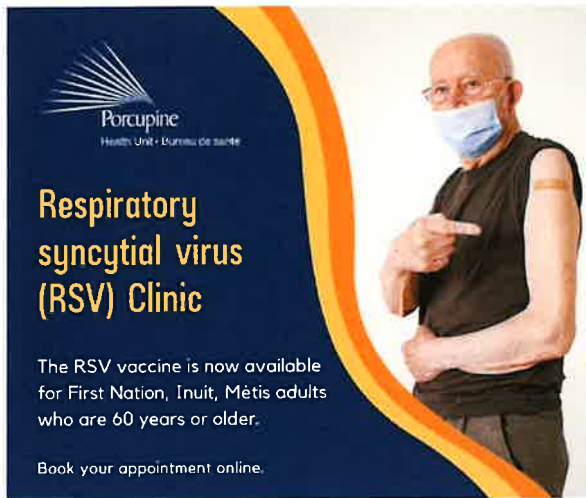
Implementation of RSV Program:

Each PHU office will be offering an RSV clinic for individuals who identify as First Nations, Inuit, and Métis (FNIM) aged 60 and over. Additionally, every First Nation community has been offered a clinic where PHU staff will support the delivery and administration of the RSV vaccine. The PHU is also providing on-site clinics at all retirement homes (RH) and will support long-term care homes, primary care offices and hospitals in implementing their RSV immunization programs. To date, the PHU team has successfully administered over 180 RSV vaccines to eligible adults in RHs. It is important to note, individuals who received a dose of RSV vaccine during the 2023-2024 season, do not need to receive another dose this season.

The PHU continues to prepare for the rollout of the infant and pregnant individual RSV vaccine program in collaboration with community partners. It is expected that primary care offices, hospitals, and midwives will

participate in the program, with the PHU serving as a site for administration and offering distribution of vaccine and support to community providers involved in the program.

Social Media:



Older adults aged 60+ are at an increased risk of Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) infection. RSV is a respiratory infection like a cold. It can lead to serious complications like pneumonia in older adults and can cause severe illness, hospitalization, and death.

The RSV vaccine is now available for First Nation, Inuit, and Metis people aged 60+.

Book an appointment online: phu.fyi/appointments

Health Promotion

1. Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention (CDIP)

Concussions

The concussion team member has been actively collaborating with Northern College and recently completed a train-the-trainer day for the Brain Waves Program. As part of this initiative, 15 BScN students in Timmins have been trained and, with the support of the PHU nursing team, will be delivering the Brain Waves Program at Timmins Centennial Public School in November for all grade 5 and 6 students.

UV Exposure

The sunscreen dispenser remained at the PHU until the end of September. It was featured at all Urban Park events throughout August, and staff reported steady use by clients and visitors during the summer months.

Physical Activity

Throughout August, the PHU focused on a cycling blitz and the promotion of active transportation. A social media campaign highlighted important safety topics such as crosswalk safety, riding with traffic, securing bikes, and mapping routes for a safe route to school.



Booking appointments for some services at the Porcupine Health Unit is now easier. You can book your appointment online at your convenience, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week if you:

- Are worried about a sexual health issue or need access to services. You can see what is available at our sexual health clinics on the website at: phu.fyi/clinics. OR*
- Don't have a nurse practitioner, physician or access to PAP testing and/or immunizations. Book an appointment online at phu.fyi/appointments or call your local health unit office.*

Food and Nutrition

The dietitian has partnered with NEOFACS' Brighter Futures program to offer a "You Are the Chef" series at their Timmins office. This series will run once a week throughout September and October, providing participants with hands-on cooking skills and nutritional education.

The PHU and THU dietitians worked together over the summer to align practices for the Northern Fruit and Vegetable Program (NFVP). This program provides fresh fruits and vegetables to schools across the region, promoting healthy eating habits among students. The teams are working together to launch the program for the 2024-2025 school year. The Northern Fruit and Vegetable Program (NFVP) provides two free servings of fruit and vegetables each week to students (JK to grade 8) from January to June. The main goal of the program is to increase the likeability of vegetables and fruit among children.

Committees and Coalitions

In August the PHU participated in one Stay on Your Feet operational committee. The team is working towards the implementation of Stand Up! classes this fall.

Oral Seniors Dental Care Program (OSDCP)

In August a total of 68 claims were processed and paid.

Healthy Smiles Ontario

Throughout June and July, the dental team provided service to 50 children for preventative services and/or dental screenings in the Dental Clinic. Out of the 50 children seen, 12 children had dental decay and were enrolled on the Emergency and Essential Services Stream of Healthy Smiles Ontario (HSO).

Health Promotion

The dental team has been engaged in several activities to support delivery of their services and community outreach, including:

- Inputting school screening data (oral health and vision) into the Ministry database
- Collaborating with Timiskaming Health Unit to align school dental resources
- Preparing documentation for the upcoming school year
- Attending community events to promote oral health programs:
 - Participated in Urban Park Events and promoted services such as Healthy Smiles Ontario (HSO) and the Ontario Seniors Dental Care Program (OSDCP)
- Provided denture cleaning and labeling services for residents of the Golden Manor
- Completed equipment maintenance, deep cleaning, inventory management

2. Healthy Growth and Development (HGD)

Staff Training

In August, a public health dietitian and a public health nurses attended Public Health Ontario's Rounds titled "Towards a Weight Inclusive Approach in Public Health". Discussion on how to address weight bias and improve health outcomes by following weight-inclusive approaches in Public Health.

Recommendations included updating resources to avoid the use of "obesity" or "overweight", having physical spaces designed for people of diverse body sizes, providing training for staff, and raising awareness of weight bias.

Partnerships

In August, the Healthy Families Program Manager led a presentation and discussion with Kunuwanimano Child and Family Services. Content included overview of services, discussions around strategies for working together with shared clients, and referral processes.

In August, the Health Families team in Timmins attended the Urban Park where they promoted services. The team brought the empathy belly which created conversations on prenatal health. 30 people stopped at the booth.

During the month of August, the Healthy Families program led an educational session in partnership with EarlyON sites in Matheson. The topics was Developmental Play, 10 people attended the session. In Timmins, the Healthy Families program helped coordinate a presentation on childhood immunization with our local EarlyON, the Porcupine Health Unit's immunization team led that session.

Services

	2022	2023	2024 – Q1	2024 – Q2
Number of infant feeding assessments completed	260	461	124	109
Number of in-person infant feeding support visits (clinic and home visits)	72	88	21	62
Number of Clients screened for Canada Prenatal Nutrition Program	67	84	28	37
Number of clients participating in 1:1 Canada Prenatal Nutrition Program	21	31	21	24

Source: Porcupine Health Unit internal databases pulled 2024-08-07

3. Healthy Babies Healthy Children (HBHC)

Healthy babies Healthy Children (HBHC) is a parenting support program that provides home visits to pregnant individuals and parents/caregivers with young children. The goal of the program is to support a healthy start in life by strengthening parent/caregiver-child relationships, as the relationships established with children during their first three years of life are foundational to their overall development. Parenting behaviours can be learned and modified, making every home visit an opportunity to enrich the parent/caregiver-child relationship. During home visits, the focus is on building parenting skills, supporting responsive parenting, identifying growth and development concerns, developing healthy behaviours, and connecting to community supports and services.

Current Program Capacity

Throughout the district, as of September 16, 2024, there are 44 families receiving HBHC home visiting services. Based on need, families are supported with either weekly or bi-weekly visits by the Public Health Nurse or the Family Home Visitor.

There currently is a waitlist in Cochrane for clients wishing to participate in the Healthy Babies Healthy Children home visiting program. All wait listed clients receive monthly calls by a public health nurse to assess child and parent well-being and to identify needs/referrals for other community supports.

As of August 31, 2024, there is currently one Public Health Nurse vacancy (leave) in the Healthy Babies Healthy Children program. Recruitment efforts have been enhanced to try to fill the temporary position, with the position being reposted for 18 months to make it more desirable.

The Healthy Babies Healthy Children Program Coordinator position is now vacant, as the staff member in the temporary position (covering a leave) resigned in August. The staff member who holds this position permanently is due to return in January 2025.

Healthy Babies Healthy Children Home Visiting Services

	2022	2023	2024 – Q1	2024 – Q2
Number of Individuals Screened (Total - Prenatal): HBHC	11	25	5	5
Number of Individuals Screened (Total - Postpartum): HBHC	502	548	144	140
Number of Individuals Screened (Total - Early Childhood): HBHC	24	27	8	8
Number of Individuals Confirmed with Risk (Total): HBHC	387	436	128	126
Number of Individuals who Received an In-Depth Assessment: HBHC	63	67	16	16
Number of Families Served (Total - with Two or More Home Visits): HBHC*	70	66	45	47

Source: ISCIS Reporting Sub-System. Monitoring Report 5.0 pulled 2024-08-16.

*Note – This represents the number of unique families who have received two or more home visits to learn parenting skills and strategies. Due to the nature of the program, clients receive services for long periods of time. Therefore, Q1 and Q2 represents many of the same families.

Upcoming Porcupine Health Unit Healthy Families Events

1. Perinatal Peer Support Group – End of September 2024
 - In partnership with EarlyON/ Positive Perinatal Services
 - Virtual sessions
2. English prenatal series – October 2024
 - In partnership with the EarlyON/ Brighter Futures
 - Virtual sessions

4. School Health

School Dental Screenings

Dental screenings in schools are complete for the 2023-2024 school year. During the summer months, dental staff work diligently to ensure that all screening data is accurately reported in the OHISS program and are preparing for the 2024-2025 school year.

Harm Reduction Program Team Overview

The Porcupine Health Unit's Harm Reduction Program consists of team members working collectively to meet the increasing community needs related to essential harm reduction services. Individually bringing a unique perspective to harm reduction, each member fulfills a key role on the team.

On July 2, 2024, the Porcupine Health Unit's harm reduction team expanded with the addition of a second outreach nurse. The role of the outreach nurse includes offering outreach testing, education to both clients and health and social professionals, and awareness on prevention strategies for sexually transmitted and blood borne infections (ST/BBI). Focusing on priority populations outlined by the HIV/Hepatitis C bureau funders, the outreach nurse will work with folks who without early detection and access to timely treatment, are likely to experience negative health outcomes. Additionally, the outreach nurses will work alongside the harm reduction outreach team to address stigma, health, and social issues.

Students

In August, the two students who have been with the Porcupine Health Unit's Harm Reduction Timmins Team, completed their program required placement hours, of 580. These two students have been with the team since the beginning of May 2024. Both students are enrolled in the addictions and mental health worker program, at Northern College. The team wishes them to best in their future endeavours.

Shortly after the two students completed their placement, the harm reduction team welcomed a new addictions and mental health student from Northern College, to complete their placement, that also consists of completing 580hrs.

Outreach Testing

Over the past few months, the harm reduction and sexual health programs have collaborated to develop an outreach testing strategy that focuses on the launch and active offers of outreach testing services, to organizations in Timmins and surrounding communities. Initial communication consisting of active offers to provide on-site testing for sexually transmitted and bloodborne infections was sent electronically to community partners in June as well as follow up communication, in July. While the strategy was under development, the outreach nurses completed their training with the support and mentorship from the sexual health team.

Discussions and collaboration with community partners, in various communities have and continue to occur. This collaboration is aimed to create partnerships with external partners so that the outreach nurses can offer additional and ongoing testing opportunities in a variety of locations and in multiple communities.

In September, the Outreach Testing Team offered the following testing opportunities:

SEPTEMBER 2024		
Date	Location	Community
4	Living Space	Timmins
11	Living Space	Timmins
16	CDSAAB Office	Cochrane
18	Living Space	Timmins
24*	PHU Office	Moosonee
25	Living Space	Timmins
25*	PHU Office	Moosonee

*Testing dates listed above for the month of September in the PHU Moosonee office were not publicly advertised. Clients accessing harm reduction services in this office were offered testing while the outreach nurse was present in the office.

Although client uptake for testing at the locations listed above have been low, with every clinic offered, the outreach nursing team creates opportunities to build rapport, connections, and promote testing services to priority populations.

Community Needle Disposal Bins, Cochrane: September Update

The town of Cochrane met with the harm reduction program coordinator and one Public Health Nurse from the PHU's Cochrane office to discuss a potential collaboration to have a community needle disposal kiosk installed in the town of Cochrane.

The Porcupine Health Unit has eight active community needle disposal bins, referred to at times as needle disposal kiosks. There are five active kiosks in Timmins, one in Schumacher, and one in South Porcupine. Kiosk levels are monitored weekly and emptied as needed by a member of the harm reduction outreach team. The Porcupine Health Unit enters the totals in NEO360, a ministry database for harm reduction programs for tracking purposes. In partnership and collaboration with the City of Timmins, access to all kiosks and their upkeep is maintained all year long.

Name of Disposal Bin	Status
Timmins	
169 Pine Street South	Active

27 Cedar Street South	Active
36 Pine Street South	Active
320 Second Avenue	Active
54 Spruce St. South (front of the Timmins Transit Terminal building)	Active
Fifth Avenue and Tamarack Street. Parking lot beside St-Matthew's Cathedral	Active
Hollinger Park (front of bathroom building)	Active
Schumacher	
Intersection of Battochio Street and Father Costello Drive	Active
South Porcupine	
76 Main Street (post office)	Active
Total number of active disposal bins	8

Needle Distribution

The Porcupine Health Unit, mandated by the Ministry of Health to offer harm reduction services, is a designated core needle exchange program (NEP) in all Porcupine Health Unit areas. The core needle exchange program collaborates with agencies in becoming a satellite site that offers harm reduction services, including supply distribution. Many agencies offering access to harm reduction services span across multiple communities across the vast Porcupine Health Unit geographical areas. To be onboarded as a satellite site, agencies complete this process by following the necessary steps outlined by the Porcupine Health Unit. The onboarding process includes but is not limited to signing a memorandum of agreement, developing internal policies, active participation in virtual and/or in-person training offered by the Porcupine Health Unit, and monthly reporting.

The Ontario Harm Reduction Distribution Program (OHRDP) is a licensed distributor that coordinates supply distribution to core programs. Supplies are funded by the ministry. Harm reduction staff at the Porcupine Health Unit are responsible for ordering, storing, tracking, and supply all satellite sites with the necessary supplies to continue offering services.

With the closure of the harm reduction services at the Safe Health Site Timmins, previously the consumption and treatment service site in mid-August the Porcupine Health Unit's harm reduction Timmins team that distribute supplies through the NEP clinic in the main building on Pine Street South has seen a significant increase in visits. For the month of August, approximately 445 clients accessed the harm reduction clinic as compared to the months of June and July, where visits for harm reduction services were counted at 186, and 184, respectively.

In addition to supporting the PHU's internal harm reduction, management and program coordinator have and continue to participate in post closure mitigation meetings to continue conversations and strategies that focus on individual and community impacts.

September Update

Following a presentation by the Public Health Nurses in the PHU's Cochrane office in June to the

members of the Cochrane wellbeing committee, outreach efforts are being mobilized and partnerships with community partners are strengthening. In September, a bi-weekly pilot schedule was developed by the harm reduction team with the goal of offering both street and mobile outreach services in Cochrane until the end of 2024.

Outreach Vehicles

The health unit's harm reduction outreach team is privileged to have access to two vehicles that are accessible when needed. The vehicles increase team's reach in expanding access points to clients residing in areas within Timmins, Shumacher, and South Porcupine where gaps in harm reduction services exist or where physical barriers create limitations to access.

Combining access to increased team capacity as well as to vehicle access, the harm reduction team is now expanding outreach services, including testing, to surrounding communities outside of Timmins where gaps to accessing harm reduction services have been identified and/or to communities that are being impacted by the ever growing and evolving opioid and drug toxicity crisis.

Outreach Services (street & mobile)

The Porcupine Health Unit's harm reduction outreach team offers both street and mobile services daily. Services provided during outreach can include but is not limited to the following: naloxone distribution and training; opioid poisoning prevention; proactive needle sweeps and proper disposal; harm reduction supply distribution; awareness on weather and drug alerts; soft referrals to other social and health services; and education on sexually transmitted and bloodborne prevention strategies. In August there were 330 client interactions on outreach in Timmins, compared to 346 in 2023. Needles located while on outreach are also properly disposed of.

Needle Exchange Program,

Harm Reduction Supply Distribution Sites (NEP)

Active NEP access points across all Porcupine Health Unit areas: 18

Onboarding: 0

Closure: 1

There are 17 active needle exchange access points, across Porcupine Health Unit area, noting that some agencies/organizations that are considered a needle exchange program are under the same memorandum of agreement with multiple sites. Some sites distribute to their clients only and are not listed publicly.

Naloxone Distribution Programs

The Porcupine Health Unit continues to prioritize and lead naloxone distribution programming as well as facilitating access to naloxone across the vast geographical areas within the Porcupine Health Unit areas. This programming is part of the Ontario Harm Reduction Program Enhancement, mandating local public health to be naloxone distribution program leads responsible for training and supporting eligible community organizations / agencies.

In August there were 412 naloxone kits distributed and 24 refills, for a total of 436; with 28 individuals trained on naloxone administration. This includes the combination of all naloxone distribution for the Porcupine Health Unit during the month of August 2024 for all naloxone distribution sites across all Porcupine Health Unit areas, all PHU NEP clinics in Timmins and in branch offices, as well as outreach. For the total number of individuals trained it is important to note that not all individuals who receive a

naloxone kit require training as many individuals have received naloxone training previously and/or an individual that is distributed a naloxone kit may receive training on naloxone administration, however, they are distributed multiple kits and /or naloxone doses in the same interaction.

Public Education – Awareness

The Porcupine Health Unit prioritizes requests for community engagement, education, and awareness from community partners / agencies and members for naloxone training, proper needle handling and disposal, and general harm reduction education which includes information on prevention strategies for sexually transmitted and bloodborne infections.

August Highlights:

1. *Timmins-Youth Summer Party August 13*
 - Harm reduction program promotion (education on harm reduction principles, increasing awareness for harm reduction services offered by public health, and naloxone distribution).
 - 7 people attended the booth
2. *Timmins-Urban Park August 14*
 - Harm reduction program and service promotion (naloxone distribution, bloodborne infection education/awareness – HIV & HCV).
 - 10 people attended the booth
 - 2 people received naloxone training
 - 2 people received naloxone
 - 2 naloxone kits distributed
3. *Timmins-Virtual Naloxone Administration Training*
 - During the month of August multiple training sessions were offered to members of the public on opioid poisoning awareness / response and naloxone administration in honor of International Overdose Awareness Day
 - August 28
 - ✓ 13 participants
 - August 28
 - ✓ 5 participants
 - August 30
 - ✓ 13 participants
4. *Cochrane-International Overdose Awareness Day August 28*
 - Harm reduction program and service promotion (naloxone distribution, bloodborne infection education/awareness – HIV / HCV) in honour of IOAD which occurs every year on August 31st.
 - 56 people attended the booth
 - 3 people received naloxone training
 - 3 people received naloxone
 - 5 naloxone kits distributed
5. *Iroquois Falls-International Overdose Awareness Day August 29*
 - Harm reduction program and service promotion (naloxone distribution, bloodborne infection education/awareness – HIV / HCV) in honour of IOAD which occurs each year on August 31st.
 - 9 people attended the booth
 - 3 people received naloxone training
 - 3 people received naloxone

- 5 naloxone kits distributed
 - Data Source: Internal PHU tracking spreadsheet accessed on 2024-09-19
 -

September Highlights:

1. International Overdose Awareness Day: August 31st each year is a day to recognize those lives impacted by opioid poisonings and the opioid crisis. Events were held over the week leading to IOAD where harm reduction teams engaged with community members to bring awareness, provide education, and distribute naloxone.
 - Kapuskasing: this year, this event was held on September 3rd
 - 13 people attended the booth
 - 11 naloxone kits distributed
 - 6 people received naloxone
 - 4 received naloxone training

2. Welcome to Timmins Night: Community event to promote programs and services available in the community. The Harm Reduction program participated in this event to promote the PHU's harm reduction services, provide education, and distribute Naloxone.
 - September 4th
 - 62 people attended the booth
 - 28 naloxone kits distributed
 - 28 people received naloxone
 - 33 received naloxone training

3. Sports and Supports: Hosted by Northern College, this event gave opportunities for students to connect with service providers and become informed on what is available in terms of recreational activities are available in the Timmins community. The Harm Reduction program attended to promote the services offered by the harm reduction program, provide education, and distribute Naloxone.
 - Timmins: September 5th

4. Public Awareness Day: Educational booth offered at a community event to promote services offered by the Porcupine Health Unit, including services available in the harm reduction program.
 - Hornepayne: September 27th
 - 75 people attended the booth
 - 27 naloxone kits distributed
 - 23 people received naloxone kits
 - 23 received naloxone training

Opioid Emergency Response Surveillance

The Porcupine Health Unit coordinates the Opioid Emergency Response Task Force for enhanced surveillance on community trends and reports related to suspected opioid poisonings and/or suspected opioid related toxicity events in all communities within the Porcupine Health Unit's geographical area. Weekly and stat reports are submitted to the Porcupine Health Unit from key partners. Based on the available information, task force members collectively decide on potential next steps on how to address the concerns as they present themselves.

August:

- Loss of data source, Safe Health Site Timmins post closure continues to reduce the amount of information accessible to the opioid emergency response task force
- Continue to receive data from CD EMS and WAHA EMS on a weekly basis
- No drug alerts mobilized in August

September:

- No opioid related emergency response ALERTS mobilized

ALERT System September

- No opioid related emergency response ALERTS mobilized.

Respectfully submitted,

Lianne Catton, MD, CCFP-EM, MPH
Medical Officer of Health/Chief Executive Officer