

## BC SUPPORT Unit Advisory Council

### Minutes

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March 1, 2021 at 10:30am – 12:00pm

**Attendees:** Lynn Stevenson (chair), Ellen Chesney, Bev Holmes, Stephanie Irlbacher-Fox, David Ostrow, Martha MacLeod, Alison Mclean, Bernie Pauly, Anni Rychtera, Swapnil Shah, Anne-Marie Visockas, Martin Wright

**Ex-officio:** Minnie Downey, Stirling Bryan, Michelle Duffy, Terri Fleming, Danielle Lavallee, Victoria Schuckel, Waqar Mughal

**Tentative:**

**Regrets:** Gregory Haljan, Megan O'Reilly

**Secretariat:** Sara Lima Branco

**Guest:** Heather Bartlett, Kelly Moran

### **1. Call the Meeting to Order**

L. Stevenson welcomed all members to this meeting of the BC SUPPORT Unit Advisory Council and brought the meeting to order at 10:34am. An introduction and welcome for W. Mughal took place.

### **2. Territorial Acknowledgement**

L. Stevenson acknowledged that this meeting is being hosted from within the ancestral, traditional, and unceded territory of the Coast Salish Peoples, including the territories of the Esquimalt, Songhees, Tsawout, WJOLEP, Pauquachin, MÁLEXEŁ (Malahat), and Tseycum First Nations, and of the Metis people.

### **3. Action items review**

There were no action items from the previous meeting.

### **4. Approval of Minutes**

The minutes were presented to the group. It was moved to approve the minutes, and then seconded. The minutes were approved.

### **5. AHSN update**

S. Bryan provided an update on the consolidation process with Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research, including governance plans. The February 8<sup>th</sup> public announcement can be found [here](#).

### **6. Leadership update**

S. Bryan provided an update on leadership changes within the Unit, with thanks to M. Downey for all her work for the organization. Information on the SPOR SUPPORT Unit Phase II grant application panel interview with CIHR was also shared with the group.

### **7. SUPPORT Unit Phase I update**

#### **a. Summative evaluation RFP Release**

D. Lavallee provided a summary of the process and timeline for selecting the successful candidate for this RFP, including the possible creation of an advisory panel. Lessons learned from the formative interim evaluation process will be applied. A brief discussion took place, where specific topics included:

- How the feedback received once the summative evaluation is complete (December 2021) can be applied to the Phase II work that will already be underway.
- Creation of a group that will help guide the work, with touchpoints to monitor deliverables.
- A formal connection to the Advisory Council.
- Including a variety of perspectives (patients, policy / government, research, Indigenous, data).
- Accountability versus learning.

The council expressed interest in providing their feedback but requested more information on specific asks, roles for Advisory Council members and a framework for what's needed.

**ACTION ITEM:** D. Lavallee will come back to this group at a future meeting (before June, when the summative evaluation work begins) with more information on specific asks, roles for Advisory Council members and a framework for what's needed for the summative evaluation.

#### **b. Dissemination of Phase 1 methods cluster work**

In advance of this meeting, a [link](#) to the new Methods Cluster blog was shared with this group. Please reach out to D. Lavallee if you are interested in blogging in this space, have recommendations on additional ways the blog can be shared or strengthened, or topics to discuss.

### **8. SPOR SUPPORT Unit Phase II planning**

#### **a. Terms of Reference**

Terms of reference have been established for the working groups to provide initial guidance, with changes expected as the groups progress their work. The first working groups will be launched in the next few weeks (patient engagement and data), with the remaining working groups on a rolling timeline.

#### **b. Status update / timeline**

H. Bartlett reviewed the timeline for the development of the Phase II provincial business plan.

#### **c. CIHR Questions answers**

S. Bryan provided an update on the SPOR SUPPORT Unit Phase II application panel interview on March 3<sup>rd</sup>. A discussion took place regarding the questions provided to the Unit and answers to those questions that were provided to CIHR. The Advisory Council also provided recommendations and feedback to consider. These included:

- Complexity of nation specific approaches in Indigenous research, and the importance of relationship-building.
- Implications on health for vulnerable and low-income individuals, especially due to unintended consequences of situations such as COVID-19 and recessions.
- Importance and strength of diverse populations (i.e., potentially a greater focus on recruiting youth and young adults, as well as rural, remote and urban).
- Wearing of multiple hats allows for synergies and capacity building.

**ACTION ITEM:** S. Irlbacher-Fox will share the list of her Unit's questions and answers with the management team.

#### **d. Indigenous Partnership**

C. Loppie (Professor and researcher, University of Victoria and Principal Investigator, British Columbia Network Environment for Indigenous Health Research (BC NEIHR)) and S. Isaac-Mann (Vice President,

Programs & Services, First Nations Health Authority (FNHA)) have joined the Phase II application as co-applicants. Phase II will have a separate focus for Indigenous Partnership. The current idea is that the Unit will provide support to Indigenous partners, who will then lead the governance. This would include building into existing infrastructure, to prevent duplication of work.

**e. Data – data sharing and agreement**

W. Mughal reviewed a slide shared in advance of this meeting, regarding the Long-Term Care Quality Improvement Initiative (LTC-QI) evaluation framework. W. Mughal is working with data stewards to access collected data from across the province, and this data, in concert with the framework, allows for immediate reporting and monitoring, as well as analysis and evaluation of the impact of the initiative.

There have been delays and challenges, as relates to the complexity of sharing of these data sets, and issues of privacy (as the BC AHSN is not a health authority or Ministry of Health). W. Mughal welcomed all feedback and assistance on this topic, as well as any questions.

**ACTION ITEM:** M. Downey and W. Mughal will connect with E. Chesney regarding a research privacy contact at Provincial Health Services Authority (PHSA).

Recently, a group of patient partners involved in COVID-19 clinical research coordination initiatives wrote a letter to Premier John Horgan, as pertains to streamlining processes, and addressing issues in privacy and legal issues.

**ACTION ITEM:** A copy of this letter will be shared with the group.

**9. Summary and Next steps**

L. Stevenson thanked M. Downey for all her work and contributions to the BC SUPPORT Unit.

**10. Group adjourned at 11:54am.**