

2012

PROGRESS
REPORT

THE 595 PREVENTION TEAM

595 STAFF TEAM

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Peer Working Group Co-Chair,
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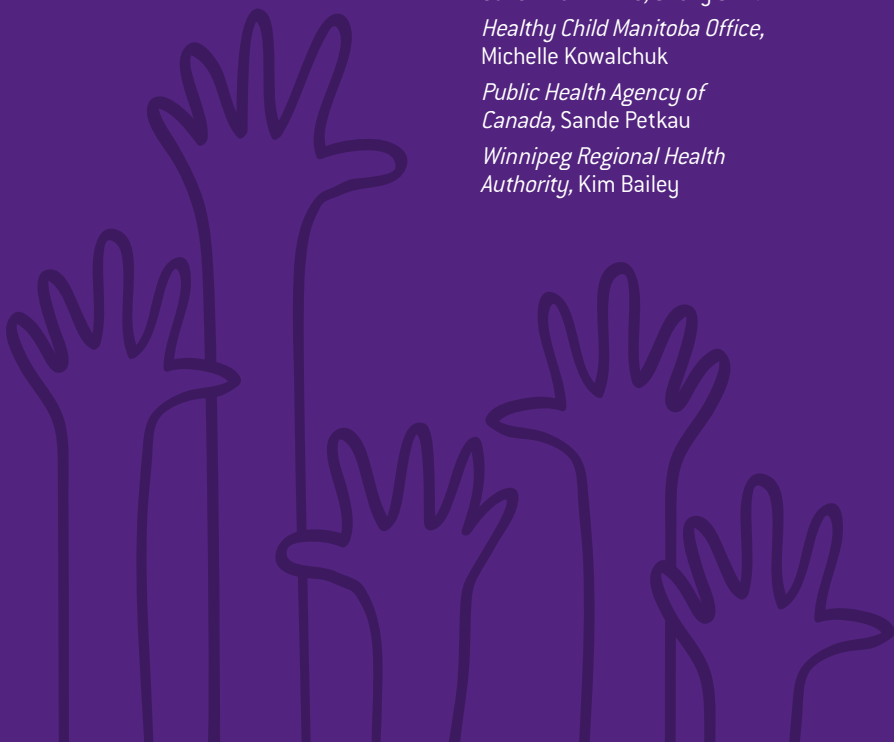
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THE 595 PREVENTION TEAM

The 595 Prevention Team is a network of over 100 member organizations interested in addressing the determinants of health and preventing the transmission of sexually transmitted infections and blood borne infections (STBBIs), primarily HIV and hepatitis C, in Manitoba.

MANDATE

The mandate of The 595 is to work with peers, network members, policy makers, and community leaders to make recommendations regarding the development, implementation and evaluation of sexually transmitted and blood borne infection (STBBI) prevention initiatives based on evidence and best practice with priority populations.

VALUES

The 595 has four core values.

- 1] Client Centred Care
- 2] Non-judgemental care
- 3] Relationship building
- 4] Supportive environments

EXPENSES:

Salaries: 58%
Operating: 19%
Programming: 23%

VISION

The 595 is a broad and diverse network of peers, service providers, administrators, and policy-makers collaborating to provide province-wide access to services, materials and resources rooted in the principles of health promotion for priority populations. We are committed to using and promoting evidence-based practices. We are peer driven with peers having strong representation in all aspects of the network.

2012-2013 FUNDERS

Health Child Manitoba

Healthy Living Seniors and
Consumer Affairs

Winnipeg Regional Health Authority

Public Health Agency of Canada:
Hepatitis C Prevention, Support
& Research Program

Public Health Agency of Canada:
AIDS Community Action Program

A WORD FROM THE TEAM

The 595 Team has been very busy and continues to be inspired by the resiliency, strength, and direction that our Peers role model for us everyday! This year we expanded into the North with the “adoption” of the Play It Safer Network. The team has travelled throughout the province delivering training, providing expertise in STBBI programming, engaging the community in program development, and consulting with organizations that show readiness to move forward with adopting a harm reduction model of care. This progress report is designed to give you a sense of the work we did from April 2012 to March 2013. Feel free to contact us with any feedback or questions. We hope that you enjoy this update!

ROSEMARIE GJEREK, Co- Chair

COLLEEN TOWER, Northern Co-Chair

SHOHAN ILLSLEY, Executive Director

CARRIE POCKETT, Education Coordinator

VEDA KONCAN, Project Coordinator

A PEER IS AN
INDIVIDUAL WHO
SELF IDENTIFIES AS
A MEMBER OF AN
AFFECTED COMMUNITY
AND IS WORKING IN A
FORMAL OR INFORMAL
PEER SUPPORT CAPACITY
TO REDUCE THE RATES
OF HCV, HIV & STIS.



WELCOMING PEER INPUT AND MEANINGFUL PEER INVOLVEMENT!

The 595 Peer Working Group (595PWG) is a group of 20 who continue to advise and direct the work of the 595. The philosophy of the network is 'Nothing About Us, Without Us!' The aim of the network is to ensure that programming and activities directed at 'priority populations' are designed and developed with significant input from the populations they serve. We recognize and value peer expertise. The 595PWG is involved in all aspects of the network from management, research, evaluation, policy development, and facilitation.

ENGAGEMENT IN PEER-LED COMMUNITY BASED RESEARCH (CBR)

Community based research is a priority for the 595PWG. In 2012, the 595 was successful at securing a catalyst grant from the Canadian Institute on Health Research (CIHR) to being their research project titled "What Goes Around: How Peers Use their Social Networks to Share STBBI Education and Information." Peer delivery of prevention information on STBBIs within drug using networks is considered best practice for engaging, educating, and treating this particular sector. This project will explore how, where, and why information is passed from Peer to Peer. We were approved from the Research Ethics and Compliance Office, Joint-Faculty Research Ethics Board at the University of Manitoba and data collection began in December 2012. The PWG will wrap up the research in September 2013 and will embark on a province wide dissemination plan.

PARTNERING WITH PEER BASED ORGANIZATIONS (PBOs)

The question of how best to support PBOs arose within the 595PWG in the spring of 2007. The 595PWG explored this concept with their community based research project on peer engagement in health and social services. The results identified the need to nurture and support PBOs that are working to empower and provide services to those that are infected or affected by HIV/ HCV. The PBOs are running on either fundraising efforts or volunteer time. Due to this constraint, it is apparent that the scope of work that could be done is hindered.

It is important to note that individuals that are living with HIV or HCV are doing the work and they struggle with their health. This speaks to the dedication and commitment that is often behind the work. At the initial development of the project, the PBOs identified some key needs. As most of the PBOs were being conducted out of their homes, space and access to office equipment was the foremost need identified. This included having a space to host meetings, store resources and access a computer, phone, conference phone, and fax machine.

In 2008, the 595 received funds to establish a comprehensive Peer Secretariat Project (PSP) that involved working with PBOs to provide administrative support and build on the capacity of their members. Through the PSP, there is a mechanism for all the PBOs to collaborate with one another. We will continue to support these organizations to build on their capacity.

We currently partner with eight PBOs:

1. The 595 Peer Working Group
2. The Manitoba Hepatitis C Support Community Inc.
3. Manitoba Area Network of Drug Users
4. AYO! Aboriginal Youth Opportunities
5. Two-Spirited People of Manitoba Inc.
6. The Women's Advisory Council: Mothering Project, Mount Carmel Clinic
7. The Anti-Violence Advisory Team: Sage House, Mount Carmel Clinic
8. KIA Women's Group: Sexuality Education Resource Centre

STRATEGIC PRIORITY # 2

INCREASE THE PROMOTION AND EDUCATION OF RESOURCES ROOTED IN PRINCIPLES OF HARM REDUCTION FOR PEERS AND PROFESSIONALS IN MANITOBA.

Our workshop, *Best Practice for Working with Underserved Populations*, is offered in conjunction with a consultation process involving communities, participants, and service providers. Although all our workshops include consistent core information, we tailor the training to ensure that the specific community needs are addressed. This year we delivered 12 workshops to 219 participants throughout the province including presentations to service providers in Churchill, The Pas, Flin Flon, and Winnipeg.



WHAT PEOPLE SAY ABOUT THE 595 WORKSHOPS!

Overall, respondents felt that the objectives of the workshop content were well explained, relevant to their work and that effective information was provided by the facilitator.

Almost all respondents felt they increased their knowledge on presented topics, mostly on the topics of client-centered care and risky behaviours.

About half of the respondents felt they increased their knowledge on HIV, Hepatitis C and STIs. Respondents indicated that they would most likely change their practices and working styles to include principles presented, to be non-judgmental, and to provide client-centered care.

Lastly, they felt that the duration of the workshops could be increased, and/or that they could happen more often to accommodate the wealth of information they wish to learn about.

*– Evaluation completed by
Health In Common*

PEER DELIVERED WORKSHOPS

HCV 101 - The 595 partners with the Manitoba Hepatitis C Support Community Inc. to deliver and evaluate peer based HCV information sessions in the province. Presentations are delivered to various organizations and individuals including participants in treatment programs, community members, service providers, and government employees. Twenty eight workshops were facilitated in Winnipeg with 332 participants. All workshops had participants who faced specific risk

conditions or factors, with most having practitioners, professionals, or other service providers, and half had people living with HIV/AIDS and/or Hepatitis C.

Participants felt that the workshops increased their knowledge of Hepatitis C. Over half (63%) would share something they learned in the workshop with someone else, such as a family member (32%), their partner (21%), or friends (19%).

Most workshop participants (88%) planned on changing their behaviour to protect against Hepatitis C by making sure they were aware and careful (38%), not sharing personal hygiene equipment (20%), and practicing safer sex (17%).

Participants felt that the purpose was well explained, that discussion was encouraged and well-managed, and overall the workshops were excellent.

*– Evaluation completed
by Health In Common*

AVAT Workshops - AVAT delivered

14 Workshops to Sage House Participants this year. Varied topics were determined by the group and included HIV Basics, Sharing Circles, Vehicle and John Identification, and other healthy living topics. This year the group intends to broaden the scope of their delivery to include service providers and partnering agencies.

Sage House hosts workshops from the Anti-Violence Advisory Team (AVAT) twice a month. AVAT is a group of current or former sex trade workers

who create and facilitate workshops for sex trade workers on issues related to health, safety, abuse, violence, money, housing and culture. Incentives include healthy snacks, bus tickets and a door prize draw at the end of each workshop. AVAT offered 10 workshops with a total of 79 participants.

Workshop were identified, developed and evaluated by AVAT members. This year the following workshops were facilitated: Harm Reduction, Drugs and Dates, HIV, Vehicle Identification, Descriptions of Johns, Winter Depression, Sharing Circle, North End Visioning Centre, Food Banks, Elizabeth Fry Society, and Bad Date Defense.

Overall, respondents felt the workshops were positive, enjoyed the company and learned something. They learned most about staying safe, the food system and food banks, and the Elizabeth Fry Society of Manitoba. Members of AVAT feel their capacity for delivering the workshops has been greatly improved and that they are on the right track.

Suggestions for improvement included debriefing sessions at the end of workshops could address the concern that some topics were personal and could 'trigger' participants. Evaluation questionnaires at the end of the workshops could also be revised to better receive feedback from participants.

*– Evaluation completed
by Health In Common*

ARROWS Workshop by AYO! - This session is designed to educate and equip service providers with the ability to better engage with urban Aboriginal youth. This training was developed by urban Aboriginal youth and provides tools to build relationships and integrity and understand how they are integral to engagement. This year we hosted two ARROWS workshops for 40 community and network members.

WE HAVE MOVED!

In April we moved our space, and our more effective and into two offices in t are just right for ou and the Nine Circle

STRATEGIC PRIORITY # 3

INCREASE ACCESS TO SERVICES, MATERIALS AND RESOURCES TO THOSE IN NEED

595 NORTH:

In the summer of 2012 the 595 expanded into the North. In the transition, an Education Coordinator was hired in Flin Flon and the 595 “adopted” the Play It Safer Network. We have spent this year making the transition into the Flin Flon Aboriginal Friendship Centre and expanding the network to include a Youth Advisory Council. See the PISN Annual Report for more details.

STBBI PREVENTION TOOLS:

We continue to offer STBBI prevention supplies for the 595PWG as well as other community members. Peers continue to provide education and support for one another regarding HIV and HCV prevention through safer drug use and sex practices.

to 705 Broadway. After evaluating our services, BUDGET, it became apparent that we needed efficient living quarters for the 595. We moved the Nine Circles Community Health Centre that our needs. This space was identified by the PWG and its staff have been very welcoming.



STRATEGIC PRIORITY # 4

BROADLY INTEGRATING THE PHILOSOPHY OF EVIDENCE BASED PRACTICE IN STBBIS.

CUSTOMIZED HIV/HCV PREVENTION,
TREATMENT, AND CARE TOOL KIT

The 595 continues to consult with
organizations throughout the province
to ensure policies, procedures, and

programming are driven by best
practice. In 2012 we worked with
various organizations including Ka Ni
Kanichihk Inc., the Northern Health
Authority, and Cree Nation Tribal Council.

595 NORTH EXPANDING

We are chatting with the Safer Choices
Northern Network (SCNN) (located in the
Burntwood region of Mb) about 'adopting' the network
just like we did with the Play It Safer Network!



VISIT US ON FACEBOOK!

<https://www.facebook.com/The595PreventionTeam>

MANITOBA HARM REDUCTION CONFERENCE

NORTHERN STYLE

AUGUST 26 & 27, BAKERS NARROWS LODGE

The event will focus on the challenges and success of addressing STBBIs and related issues in Northern, rural, and remote communities. We are looking forward to visiting the North!

PRESENTED BY:



STRATEGIC PRIORITY # 5

MARKETING THE 595 PREVENTION TEAM.

This year we had peers and staff participate in several events where they promoted the 595 and STBBI prevention strategies. Hopefully you had a chance to chat with us at: World AIDS Day, SNOW Night (Safe Night Off Winnipeg Streets), RaY Summer Wrap Up Event, Grandmothers Protecting Our Children Walk, Transgender Day of Remembrance, Pride Winnipeg Festival, and the Sexual Reproductive Health Week-Condom Blitz

PLAYING WELL WITH OTHERS

The 595 has membership on several community, provincial, and national coalitions. We believe in engaging and promoting Peer attendance at all levels of service delivery from grassroots to government.

Canadian HIV/AIDS Treatment and Information Exchange – As members of the Man/Sask Network, our goal is to address and represent the regional needs of agencies working in the prevention, care and treatment of HIV/HCV.

Mothering Project Advisory Team (Mount Carmel Clinic): The goal of the advisory team is to design, implement, and evaluate the project. The project will target women who may be street-involved, working in the sex trade, or homeless, and who are actively using illicit drugs and/or alcohol, and who are pregnant or have young children.

The Sexually Exploited Youth Community Coalition: The coalition's goal is to address the gaps in care for sexually exploited youth and prevent further exploitation. As members, we assisted in the planning of All Children Matter: Protecting Sacred Lives conference that was held in March 2013, in conjunction with Manitoba's Sexual Exploitation Awareness Week.

Tracia's Trust Task Force: The provincial task force facilitates the inter-

sectorial coordination of approaches, programs and services in Manitoba that pertain to sexual exploitation. The task force also provides advice and consultation on matters affecting policies, programs and legislation related to Tracia's Trust initiatives.

Sexual Health Educators Network: The Sexual Health Educators Network represents a group of non-profit agencies that provide sexuality-related education and training in Manitoba.

KNOWLEDGE IS POWER OR IS IT?

This year, staff and peers took advantage of many learning opportunities including:

- 2012 Manitoba HIV/AIDS Conference
- 2012 Saskatchewan HIV Conference- All Nations Hope AIDS Network
- Motivational Interviewing
- Addictions Foundation of Manitoba Symposium
- WRHA 2013 Conference: Sex Matters
- ARROWS Youth Engagement Strategy
- Mothers and Substance Use
- Aboriginal Awareness Workshop (WRHA)
- Safe Talk
- Idle No More Awareness
- How To Skype!

THANK YOU

To our peers who continue to inspire and teach the staff and network of the 595.

To our network members for continuing to inform the work of the 595 and sharing your expertise and resources with us.

To our funders for continuing to support the work of the 595 and valuing the input of our Peers.



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