

Board Liaisons and Chairs Meeting

*Putting Health Equity into Action:
Advancing Indigenous Health in Indigenous
Hands and building organizational capacity
to serve Indigenous clients in a safer way*

October 6, 2021



Alliance for Healthier Communities
Alliance pour des communautés en santé

Housekeeping



Audio

- All attendees are automatically muted when joining Zoom
- You will be able to mute and unmute your microphone during breakout sessions and to ask questions.

Sharing Video

You can turn your camera on or off with the Start/Stop Video button.

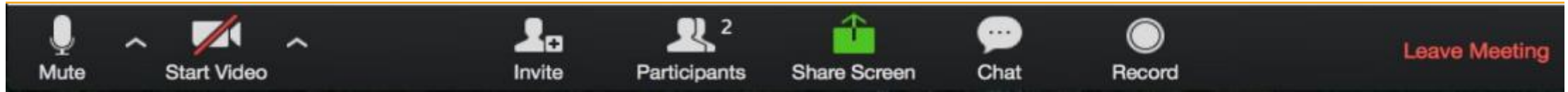
Getting on the Speakers List During Q&A period:

- Raise your hand using the “Reactions Button” and press “Raise your Hand”
- Type in the Chat that you want to speak.

Chat

Open up the chat window to chat with other participants or ask questions.

Housekeeping



Video Layout

At the upper right of the Zoom window, you can switch to active speaker view from gallery view during presentations.

Troubleshooting

- If you have issues with your Internet connection, try turning off your video.
- Make sure all other programs and applications that use Internet are turned off.

Joining by phone

If your Internet connection is unstable, you can join by phone. Instructions on how to join by phone are available in your registration confirmation email.

Housekeeping continued



Help Desk:

If you require assistance,
please send a **private zoom chat to**
Corinne Christie

or in the event that you cannot do so, e-mail
Corinne.Christie@allianceon.org



Welcome!
Bienvenue!

M'Tallawin, Kweh, Boozhoo, Ahnee,
Shekóli, Shé:kon, Tansi, Watchiya



Alliance for Healthier Communities
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Land Acknowledgement

The work of the Alliance, and that of members, takes place on traditional territories of Indigenous Peoples who have lived on these lands since time immemorial. The land we call Ontario is covered by 46 treaties, agreements, and land purchases, as well as unceded territories.

We also wish to acknowledge that the office of the Alliance for Healthier Communities is located on the traditional Indigenous territory of the Huron-Wendat, Haudenosaunee and most recently, the territory of the Mississaugas of the Credit.

It continues to be home to many Indigenous people who live alongside settlers, newcomers, and people whose ancestors were enslaved across the Americas and the Caribbean. We are grateful for the opportunity to live and work on this land.

Recognizing this in a meaningful way means making commitments to sharing and upholding responsibilities to all who now live on these lands and the land itself. In our work, let us be mindful of these commitments.

Member engagement committee:

- **Cliff Ledwos**, Associate Executive Director, Director of Primary Health Care, Access Alliance Multicultural Health and Community Services
- **François Seguin**, Board Chair, l'Équipe de santé familiale communautaire de l'Est d'Ottawa
- **Aniko Varpalotai**, Board member, Central Community Health Centre
- **Kirsten Woodend**, Board Chair, Petreborough 360 Degree NPLC
- **Florence Ngenzebuhoro**, Executive Director, Centre francophone du Grand Toronto



Agenda

- Welcome and land acknowledgement
- Introductions: small group networking
- Working towards Indigenous Health in Indigenous Hands: Transitioning oversight and leadership for the Waterloo Wellington Indigenous Healing and Wellness Program from Guelph CHC to SOAHAC
- Creating safer environments for Indigenous Peoples - How organizations can build their capacity to serve Indigenous clients in an equitable and safer way
- Small group discussion: Advancing Indigenous Health in Indigenous Hands and building organizational capacity to serve Indigenous clients
- Governing for Health Equity training launch
- Alliance updates: Resolutions and Strategic Planning
- Wrap up and upcoming events



Introductions: Small Group Networking

- ✓ Introductions: name, organization, what part of Ontario
- ✓ One success and one challenge
advancing health equity
in your organization





Setting the Stage:

Advancing Indigenous Health in Indigenous Hands and building organizational capacity to serve Indigenous clients

Cliff Ledwos, Chair of the Member Engagement Committee, Alliance Board



Working towards Indigenous Health in Indigenous Hands:

**Transitioning oversight and leadership for
the Waterloo Wellington Indigenous
Healing and Wellness Program
from Guelph CHC to Southwest Ontario
Aboriginal Health Access Centre**

*Jan Martin, Director, Indigenous Relations, SOAHAC
Charisse Sayer, Integrated Care Manager, Waterloo-
Wellington IHWP, SOAHAC*

*Raechelle Devereaux, CEO, Guelph CHC
Dorothy Bakker, Board Chair, Guelph CHC*



Indigenous Health in Indigenous Hands

Transitioning

Waterloo Wellington Indigenous Healing and Wellness Program (IHWP)

to

Southwest Ontario Aboriginal Health Access Centre

Indigenous Healing & Wellness Program (IHWP)

High-level outcomes for the IHWP

- In 2015, the Waterloo Wellington Indigenous Healing and Wellness Program was funded by the Waterloo Wellington LHIN
- In the absence of an Indigenous-governed organization in Waterloo Wellington, the Guelph CHC was funded as an “interim host” of the program, directed to support self-determination through an Indigenous Advisory Circle
- To connect the Indigenous community (including First Nations, Inuit, and Métis) to traditional forms of healing
- To promote cultural ways of knowing, being and doing to nurture Indigenous pride and wellbeing.
- To collaborate with community partners to improve health outcomes for the Indigenous population.





Alliance for Healthier Communities

Alliance pour des
communautés en santé

- **Fall 2017:** Alliance for Healthier Communities (the Alliance) pass unanimous resolutions committing to transition existing Indigenous – funded health programs into the hands of Indigenous-governed health organizations.

- **June 2019:** Alliance Annual General Meeting

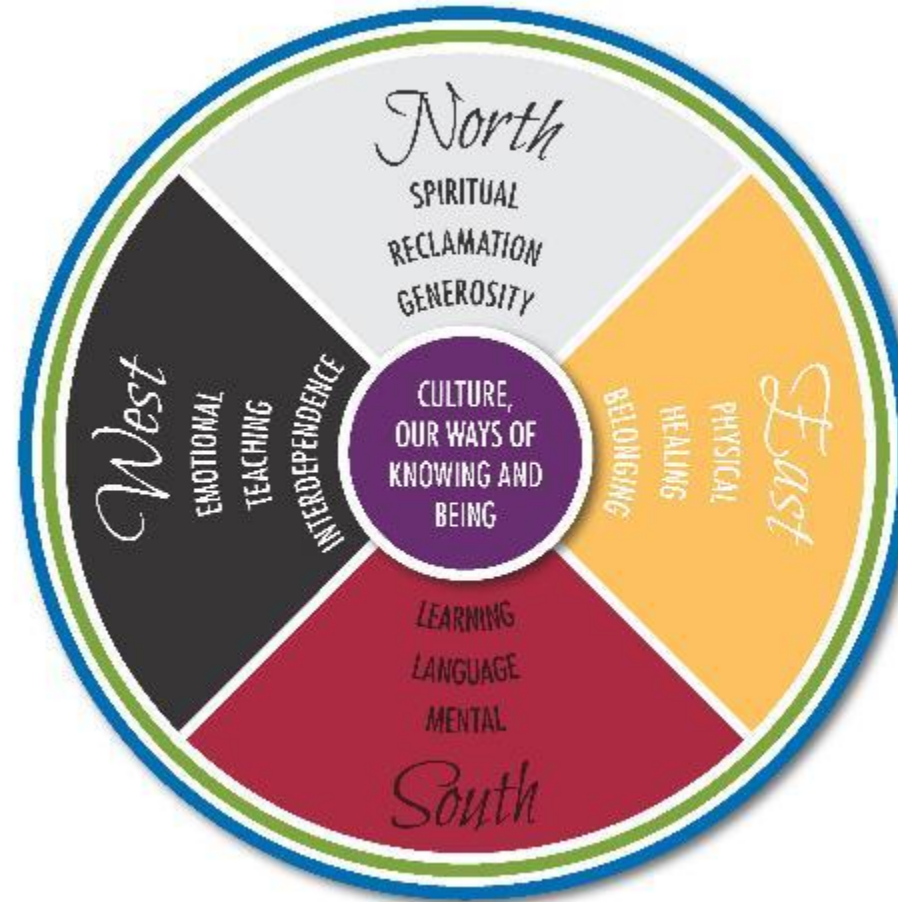
“ Be It Resolved that the Alliance for Healthier Communities supports the position that Indigenous health care be planned, designed, developed, delivered and evaluated by Indigenous governed organizations, and urges member centres to work in a manner that honours and respects Indigenous voice, leaders and governance frameworks and that exemplifies authentic allied relationships.”

- **September of 2019**
 - Board of the Directors of the Guelph CHC meets together with the IHWP Advisory Circle
 - At this gathering, the groups agreed with one another that the Waterloo Wellington Indigenous communities would be best served if the IHWP were delivered within an Indigenous-based/Indigenous-governed organization.
 - Guelph CHC Board and the Advisory Circle also agreed to engage an **Indigenous consultant** to inform and guide bringing this decision to a reality.

What We Learned

INDSight Consulting conducted a comprehensive review of all Indigenous-governed health and community service organizations in the surrounding areas, with a view for which organizations were best-positioned to host the IHWP. Findings of the INDSight review were presented to the Advisory Council where it was agreed that **transitioning the program to a surrounding Aboriginal Health Access Centre (AHAC)** would best meet the needs of the community, and the program as a whole. (Nov 2019 - Jan 2020)

Model of Wholistic Health and Wellbeing



Engaging Aboriginal Health Access Centres

- **Spring-Summer 2020:** Dialogues with Hamilton and London-based AHACs took place, and by September 2020, there was agreement by all parties that a program transfer be initiated with the **Southwest Ontario Aboriginal Health Access Centre (SOAHAC)**.
- **September/October 2020:** Both Boards of SOAHAC and the Guelph CHC passed a Motion for the voluntary integration.

SOAHAC is an Indigenous-governed community primary health care centre with a strong provincial reputation for Indigenous health care delivery, and extensive experience in providing comprehensive community-based Indigenous primary care services, including healing and wellness, across Southwestern Ontario.



Southwest Ontario
Aboriginal Health
Access Centre



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ABORIGINAL HEALTH CENTRE

The Transition

- Following a series of Board, leadership and funder meetings, on December 15th 2020, **SOAHAC accepted the transfer of accountability and oversight** for IHWP funding, performance, staffing and program delivery.
- All existing IHWP staff positions were transitioned to be employees of SOAHAC; **no staff jobs were lost.**



Southwest Ontario
Aboriginal Health
Access Centre



Challenges

- Evolving role clarity in decision-making and processes, and barriers with colonial decision-making
- Critical issues and risk occurring during the transition that had to remain in “limbo;”
 - Many transparent, trust-based discussions to plan for and manage risks – Board and leadership
- Funders, in their efforts to be “helpful,” were at times experienced as interfering and creating challenges;
 - Open discussions to ensure Indigenous leaders had the autonomy to speak directly with one another without interference

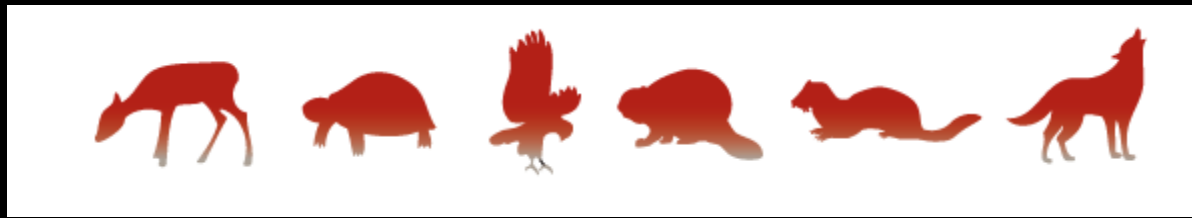
What Went Well



Southwest Ontario
Aboriginal Health
Access Centre

- A clear, aligned commitment across all organizations, staff and funders that Indigenous Health belongs in Indigenous Hands
- Open, authentic and transparent relationships between Aboriginal Health Access Centre and Community Health Centre Leadership
- Commitment of Board and Advisory Members to enable the process, and participate in resolving challenges





Advice



- Need to **take the time** to navigate the complexity to ensure things are done in a good way;
- Engage, and listen to hear;
- Be willing to let go of power and privilege that comes with decision-making and “leading the plan”;
- Need to let go of our colonial way of approaching “task” and “timelines,” and give pause to listen, reflect and build relationship and trust;
- Over-listen and over-communicate



Post Transition



Southwest Ontario
Aboriginal Health
Access Centre

Vision

A healthy balanced life through mental, physical, spiritual and emotional well-being.



Mission

To empower Aboriginal families and individuals to live a balanced state of well-being by sharing and promoting holistic health practices.

Services Offered



Southwest Ontario
Aboriginal Health
Access Centre

- Nursing (RN)
- Culturally safe space Pine-Bush COVID vaccine clinic
- Women's Health Promotion
- Traditional Healing
- Indigenous Housing Outreach Worker
- Mental Health Counsellor
- Referrals to other external services providers
- Outreach & Transportation
- Education & Awareness



Mental Health & Addictions Services

Adults

- ❑ Counseling
- ❑ Transitional Case Management
- ❑ Family Social Worker
- ❑ Addiction Recovery Services
- ❑ Trauma Focused Services & Counseling



Children & Youth (Anishnawbe Ayaadiziwin)

- ❑ CYWs (Workshops/Activities/Mentorship)
- ❑ Wholistic Knowledge Sharing Circle
- ❑ Counseling



Traditional Healing

SOAHAC believes that having access to Traditional Healing services is an essential part of integrated, wholistic health care. We also believe that it is vital for healing related to the ongoing impacts of colonization.

SOAHAC staff support your journey to health and wellness. Our Doctors and Nurse Practitioners respect your right to choose how you will heal including the use of Traditional Healing Services. Our Traditional Healers will work in cooperation with all SOAHAC staff and services to ensure you receive the best care possible in a culturally safe and caring way.



Traditional Healing



- Traditional Healing services are provided by:
- Resident healers
- Visiting Traditional Healers, Elders & Teachers
- Traditional Healing Liaisons (Helpers)



Traditional Healing program offers:

- One to one visits
- Teaching Circles and Ceremonies
- Outreach



Waterloo Wellington



Providing support to First Nation, Métis and Inuit community in Kitchener, Waterloo, Cambridge, Guelph and surrounding Areas.

745 Coronation Blvd., Unit 102
Cambridge, ON

**Miigwech, Nia:weh, Marsee,
Thank you!**



Southwest Ontario
Aboriginal Health
Access Centre

Questions?

Visit [www. soahac.on.ca](http://www.soahac.on.ca)

Questions? Comments?

