

## Child and Youth Program

*Jennifer Begg*

- Implementation and adoption of Provincial Vital Signs Guideline and Pediatric Early Warning System at all Northern Health facilities.
- Participation in self-assessment process for the Child Health BC Medical Tiers of Service to inform service planning.
- Partnering with MCFD and communities to develop and implement Children and Youth Mental Health and/or Substance Use Protocols.
- Identification and implementation of care standards and resources for admitted patients with mental health concerns in acute care.
- Partnering with Public Health to develop a Child Health Action Plan; develop an Early Childhood Development Clinical Practice Standard to enable physicians and primary care nurses to offer quality care and appropriate screening for children 0-5; review, develop, and improve utilization of resources to support early childhood development, parenting, and mental wellness.
- Many thanks to Dr. William Abelson for his leadership and contributions to the Child and Youth Program for the past two years.
- Recruitment is underway for a new Medical Lead
- For more information, please contact [Jennifer Begg](#).



*Dr. William Abelson*



*April Price*

## Elder Program



*Dr. Nicole Ebert*



- April Price accepted the role of Executive Lead for the Elder Program effective August 14, 2017.
- Dr. Nicole Ebert is supporting a Seniors Housing Project pilot in Vanderhoof with the intention to expand to other interested communities.
- The Regional Geriatric Service Model, developed collaboratively with Physician leaders, has been approved by Executive and will be implemented on a community by community basis beginning this winter.
- A Home Support Services review has taken place with a number of recommendations on how to improve services, presented to Executive on October 25th.
- Regional work continues to deliver on the Healthy Aging in the North Seniors Action Plan which is informed by the 2013 Seniors Consultation.
- Thank you to Dr. Nicole Ebert for her leadership in the Elder Program for over three years.
- Recruitment is underway for a new Medical Lead
- For further information, please contact [April Price](#) .

## Mental Health and Substance Use Program

- Michelle Lawrence accepted the role of Executive Lead Mental Health and Substance Use effective September 11, 2017.
- Dr. Prigmore, Medical Lead Addictions and Harm Reduction, is providing education and training at workshops, and providing consultation to primary care physicians on suboxone starts and maintenance.
- Regional review of substance use services completed. A service gap analysis is in development for substance use services and to support the normalization of the Overdose Response Strategy.
- Continued support for the ongoing development of specialist/ primary care collaborative care through the Northern Shared Care Psychiatry Collaborative.
- Ongoing development and partnership with The First Nations Health Authority in supporting Mobile Support teams. The Phase 1 communities are Quesnel, Dease Lake and Fort St. John. Currently preparing for Phase 2 communities.
- For more information, please contact [Michelle Lawrence](#).

*Michelle Lawrence*



*Dr. Gerrard Prigmore*



## Perinatal Program

*Vanessa Salmons*



- Over the last year, the Perinatal Program had vacancies with the Executive and Medical Lead positions. Interim Executive Leads and several obstetricians provided program leadership. Vanessa Salmons started as the permanent Executive Lead December 2017.
- Dr. Bill Kingston started as the Medical Lead for the Perinatal Program in January 2018. Dr. Kingston will work collaboratively with Vanessa and others to provide leadership and support for the development of an integrated and coordinated Perinatal Program within NH.
- The MORE<sup>OB</sup> education platform is in its 12<sup>th</sup> year; the next three years will provide sites with an enhanced version of the program called MORE<sup>OB</sup> Plus. The core teams will receive increased guidance and support with quality improvement and education initiatives and access to new support tools.

*Dr. Bill Kingston*



*Mary Cate Nicholson*



- The program is also developing a long term strategy to enhance accessibility and sustainability of perinatal education programs for health care providers with a focus on the Neonatal Resuscitation Program (NRP) and Fetal Health Surveillance Program (FHS).
- The trial Smart Mom prenatal education texting program, currently in evaluation phase, sends gestational age appropriate prenatal education via text message and includes links to additional information and community resources.
- We would like to extend a very heartfelt thank you to the physicians who provided medical leadership following Dr. Brian Galliford's retirement, including Dr. Robin Johnson, Dr. Tahir Chaudhry, Dr. Sheona Mitchell-Foster, Dr. Bill Kingston, and Dr. Marijo Odulio.
- Thank you to Mary Cate Nicholson for her interim leadership in the Perinatal Program
- For further information, please contact [Vanessa Salmons](#).

## Primary and Community Care Program

- Chief Operating Officers (COOs) and their leadership teams, in partnership with the Divisions of Family Practice and specialists, are implementing primary care homes supported by interprofessional teams, specialized community services and specialists to provide integrated health services across the care continuum.
- A Primary and Community Care Business Owner Working Group (BOWG) has been established with strong physician, nurse practitioner and clinical membership to co-design the preferred future state of integrated primary and community care in partnership with Northern Health. The First Nations Health Authority will also participate in this working group. This work will begin first with services provided by primary care homes supported by interprofessional teams, and later involve specialized community services representatives and our specialist colleagues to co-design the more specialized services required by the people we serve in the north.
- A Primary and Community Care Operations Committee has been established for Northern Health owned and operated primary care homes. This table is a forum for operational leaders, physicians and nurse practitioners to discuss quality improvement opportunities within these primary care practice environments.
- Practice Support Coaches across the north are supporting primary care physicians' partnered work with interprofessional teams with quality improvement initiatives centred around evidence-based clinical education and in-practice supports to improve care for people and their families (and the physician's experience of delivering high-quality primary care).
- Dr. Paul Murray, Vanessa Salmons and operational leaders are completing site visits across the region to further understand and respond to physician and team experiences of delivering integrated primary and community care.
- Nurse Practitioner Lead Helen Bourque provides operational and strategic support for nurse practitioners who provide primary care in a variety of settings across the north. Helen works as a Co-Lead with the Medical and Executive Lead of the Primary and Community Care Program.
- A sincere thanks to Vanessa Salmons for her interim leadership of the program.
- For further information, please contact [Pam Mulroy](#) or [Helen Bourque](#).

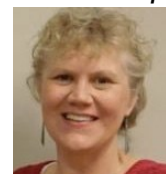
*Pam Mulroy*



*Dr. Paul Murray*



*Helen Bourque*



*Vanessa Salmons*



*Sheila Gordon-Payne*



## Professional Practice

- Sheila Gordon-Payne and Cathy Czechmeister provide regional leadership for professional practice of nurses, and Susanne Watson for allied health professions.
- Project work is underway to support the development, documentation and coordination of plans of care by interprofessional teams in community and acute care.
- The team provides consultation services to advise and support leaders/managers and staff about the professional practice of health care professionals, when required.
- Leadership is provided for scope of practice adjustments when required including aiding in the provision of Medical Assistance in Dying, and administration and dispensing of naloxone for emergency treatment of opioid overdose.
- For further information, please contact [Professional Practice](#).

*Cathy Czechmeister*



*Susanne Watson*

