

BACKGROUND

The 0-5 Public Health Nursing program in Vancouver Community (VC) delivers universal preventive services to pregnant women, mothers and young children, to achieve the goals of BC's Guiding Framework for Public Health. Two main goals addressed by the 0-5 program are healthy mothers and children, and communicable disease prevention through immunization. The VC public health nursing program delivers these services in partnership with other providers in the community, including primary care physicians, midwives, pharmacists, and community partners.

0-5 RENEWAL PROCESS

Earlier this year, the VC 0-5 Public Health Nursing Program began a review of services to ensure alignment with the current health needs of the population. The renewal process, which is expected to take 18-24 months, will develop strategies to identify vulnerability, equity and integration, with the goal of providing:

- Improved **prenatal and postpartum support** to all families, with enhanced services to families with infants and children (0-5 years) experiencing health inequities
- Clear pathways for **integration** with other specialty services, primary care providers, and community partners
- Enhanced **care coordination**
- Opportunities to improve use of **technology** to reach a broader population

An in-depth review of service delivery approach will be completed based on an understanding of client needs. Two key areas where we are focusing our initial efforts include:

1. Access to Services
2. Parent Infant Education Series (previously referred to as "Parent/Infant Drop in's")



Making better
decisions together
with patients
and families

ENGAGING OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS

VC Public Health teams work with many different partners in the community to support the delivery of our public health programs. We recognize that our partners in the community share similar values and goals for providing and/or supporting access to early years programs and services. Over the past year, VC leadership (alongside with some of our community partners) has been working closely with the Vancouver Early Years Partnership (VEYP), and this has highlighted opportunities for establishing ongoing structure and framework for continuing to strengthen our community partnerships.

Strengthening Engagement and Collaboration



As a first step in this direction, VC – in collaboration with VEYP – hosted a community planning session on October 30th, 2018 where Vancouver Community partners were invited to attend and shared their feedback and advice with VCH.

- 48 community partners representing neighborhood houses, family places, community centres, Vancouver Public Library, City of Vancouver, YMCA, and other Early Years programs attended the session. Thank you to all who were able to attend and share your voice!
- The session was also attended by VC public health nurses, managers and educators who participated in the table discussions
- An overview of our public health services and the 0-5 renewal were presented by our Director, Lizzy Ambler, and our Medical Health Officer, Dr. Reka Gustafson also provided some context to the discussion.

We would like to extend a special note of thanks to Sandra Menzer and the VEYP for helping to bring us all together!

THEMES FROM THE DISCUSSIONS

Participants were asked to give VCH their best advice to inform the renewal of 0-5 services. There were seven suggestions that were explored during the session. While not all of the advice that was explored fits into the context of our current work priorities, themes that were pulled from the discussions that will be guiding the current work streams in progress are:

- 1. Profile and role of public health**
 - a. General impression that families and some community partners may not understand the role of public health or how to access and navigate the system for services
- 2. Connecting with families using technology and across the 0-5 years continuum**
 - a. Explore options for connecting with families (in person, via Skype, letters, information at community centres)
 - b. On the VCH website, streamline and present resource information for families in a user-friendly manner
- 3. Community Partners**
 - a. Provide services in the community where possible as it helps to build relationships, go to where families are already attending
 - b. Build on community partners to work collaboratively to enhance programs
- 4. Engagement with families across the child development continuum**
 - a. Stressed need to continue with postpartum support but also identify other key development touch points (for example, 2 years of age, 5 years of age, etc.)
 - b. Consider strategies for engagement with clients prenatally who have additional vulnerabilities
- 5. Care Coordination**
 - a. Many families dealing with vulnerabilities have psychosocial challenges. Consider the role of Social Workers on the Public Health team to support a more fully integrated approach to care.
- 6. Communication with partners**
 - a. Strengthen communication with community partners on an ongoing basis
 - b. Seek input to future system changes in advance of implementation

NEXT STEPS FOR ENGAGEMENT

While we work through the renewal process and feedback received to date, themes and feedback from the first Community Engagement session will continue to inform the additional work that will be starting up in the new year. Recognizing that much work has been done at the VEYP to identify and support the early years infrastructure within Vancouver, we will look to this framework to inform future opportunities for collaboration and engagement. We would like to plan similar engagement sessions in the future, and will also consider how we can work to support an ongoing structure of collaboration between VCH and our partners in the community. Please stay tuned for more to come on this!

ACCESSING PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING SERVICES

Families can continue to access a public health nurse with questions or concerns about their child's health, growth and development, emotional health or parenting support. To access services please call your local community health centre and ask to speak to a public health nurse.

If you have any concerns about the renewal process please contact your local public health manager – they would be happy to talk about the exciting work underway.

Community Health Centres

Three Bridges Community Health Centre

1128 Hornby Street 604 331 8901

Manager: Kristen Farquharson

Robert and Lily Lee Family Community Health Centre

1669 East Broadway 604 675 3980

Manager: Elizabeth Stockman

Evergreen Community Health Centre

3425 Crowley Drive 604 877 4665

Manager: Joanne Solmundson

Pacific Spirit Community Health Centre

2110 West 43rd Avenue 604 261 6366

Manager: Jane Porter

Raven Song Community Health Centre

2450 Ontario Street 604 709 6400

Manager: Michelle Nichols

South Community Health Centre

6405 Knight Street 604 321 6151

Manager: Laura Hansen