



August 2013

Hello Everyone!

August was the transition month for our team as moved into Phase 2 of our project, gearing up to develop and pilot test an instrument to measure wellness from cultural interventions to treat addictions in First Nations people.

Next Step – Developing an Instrument:

Creating an instrument as important as the one we will put together, takes time, ongoing collaboration, and inspiration. The plan for the upcoming months is for our Indigenous Approach team (originally led by Elder Jim Dumont and others) to come together to further synthesize and categorize the information obtained from Treatment Centres at the National Gathering. A draft instrument will be developed, shared, and reviewed by Centres and their selected content experts. Then results will be analyzed to select the best items for the second draft of the instrument.

Scoping Study:

The Scoping Study Committee is meeting in September to discuss potential articles to write and relevant journals where we can send our work. So far we have thought of two ideas for papers: One looks at the methods and strategies used in the scoping study and the other focuses on the findings from the literature on cultural interventions to treat addictions in Indigenous populations.

Ethics:

We are currently preparing a document for ethics approval for the second Phase of our work and plan to have a draft ready by October 1.

Upcoming Presentations and Communications:

There are lots of ways in which our work is being shared:

- September 5, Carol will present to the AFN Mental Wellness Committee.
- September 20-21, Colleen will be speaking at the Global Health Conference at the U of S.
- October 10, Colleen will be speaking at the “Best Brains Exchange” hosted by CIHR.
- In November, Carol and Colleen will be presenting at the CCSA hosted Issues of Substance gathering.
- Video 3 is almost done and focuses on Treatment Centre’s reaction to how the project has been implemented over the last year or so. It emphasizes the importance of time for sharing knowledge.

Please be in touch at any time to share your input and ideas about these or any other aspects of the project going forward by emailing or calling me, Margo Rowan at mar805@mail.usask.ca or 613-841-7520, or our Project Manager, Barb Fornssler, at barb.fornssler@usask.ca or 306-966-7894.