



HOS:CasI Newsletter

April, May & June 2014

Special Triple-Issue Edition

Greetings Everyone!

This triple-month issue of the HOS:CasI newsletter shares the exciting and productive time the project has experienced recently as we move into the pilot testing phase of our final year. Below are key highlights of the process from the past few months.

Pilot Testing As mentioned in the last update, we presented the first draft of the Wellness Assessment Instrument to clients and treatment providers at the end of March. Based on the comments received and the knowledge shared by many of you, the Indigenous Knowledge working group made the suggested revisions to the instrument while ensuring the psychometric validity of its indicators. The assessment revisions ensured consistency between the self-report and observer-report forms, while also refining the language to ensure clarity. Further, the team has completed as much of the administration manual as possible to date, with more revisions to come once information from the pilot testing is received. Packages containing the pilot testing materials have been sent to each treatment centre and electronic copies of these documents were also sent to the centre executive directors for ease of access. The treatment centres will engage with clients to complete the assessment forms twice during each treatment cycle. This will allow for the team to understand how the instrument is reflecting client-change during the course of treatment. We look forward to receiving this information and working with the results to validate the instrument. The pilot-testing phase of the project will continue until December. *We would like to acknowledge the excellent work of treatment centre staff and their clients for engaging in this critically important work to ensure a valid assessment instrument results from this project.* Thank you for your continued commitment to the HOS:CasI project goals and outcomes.

AMIS Integration While the launch of pilot testing has been of primary importance during these past three months, another important advancement is our team's increased participation in the Addictions Management Information System (AMIS) development. This system aims to provide a national database for NNADAP and YSAP centres across the country that will replace the former Substance Abuse Information System (SAIS). The HOS:CasI team's Wellness Assessment Instrument will contribute to this new database. To learn more about this important work please visit the National Native Addictions Partnership Foundation website or follow the direct link provided here (<http://nnapf.com/about-n-n-a-p-f/scope-of-work/addictions-management-information-system>).

Sharing the Knowledge Since the implementation of the HOS:CasI project we have emphasized the importance of sharing knowledge - across treatment centres, with project partners and other

stakeholders, and most importantly - with community members. Several key developments have contributed to this effort in the past few months, including:

***Publishing** The Scoping Study committee had their first paper about the outcomes of the scoping review component of the project accepted for publication, pending revisions. Congratulations! At present they are furthering their work on a second paper that aims to share more about the process of doing a scoping study with other project teams. Two more publications are also in preparatory stages – the first seeks to further articulate what a ‘Two-eyed Seeing’ approach to this research has meant for our project and the second will share reflections on this process. If you would like to contribute your knowledge to these papers, or if you have another way that you would like to share information about our project (i.e., making a video, writing a poem or story, sharing a song) please get in touch with Laura Hall (ljhall@laurentian.ca) or Barb (contact information below) at any time. Be in contact!

***Recipe Cards** The beautiful recipe cards have been completed and are ready to share! Each treatment centre will receive two sets of cards and the accompanying measuring spoons. If you would like to receive further sets for clients, for other community members, or for yourself please connect with Barb at anytime. Other team members are encouraged to connect with Barb to receive these materials. You can also view the complete set on the project website and download a pdf copy immediately. The recipe cards can be found by visiting the project website or by following the direct link provided here (<http://www.tinyurl.com/CookingAsCulture>)

***Envisioning Wellness** Four new information sheets are available through the project website. These products share the foundational aspects of wellness as understood and put forward through the work of our project Elder Jim Dumont with all of you. These materials include a *Definition of Wellness*, a *Definition of Culture*, the *Wellness Framework and Outcomes* that are the basis of our assessment tool, and the *Common Interventions* that also inform the tool. These materials are available from the project website (<http://www.tinyurl.com/CultureAsInterventionResearch>) electronically as pdf documents and as glossy-print hard copies upon request. Please connect with Barb at any time to receive printed copies of this material.

***Wellness Flower – Coming Soon!** This product is still in the early draft stages but aims to facilitate ‘growing your own wellness flower’ through a craft-based workbook that applies the foundational aspects of wellness described in the Wellness Framework and Outcomes information sheet. This will be a creative activity that results in clients designing and building a flower that shares important cultural aspects of their personal journey to wellness. This product is intended to foster conversation between treatment centre clients and care providers to support thinking about how culture informs wellness. We will be sending a draft of this work for your feedback, input, and comments by early fall.

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 Margo Rowan at mar805@mail.usask.ca or 613-841-7520, or Barb Fornssler, at barb.fornssler@usask.ca or 306-966-7894.