

## REACH Niagara Provider Meeting Minutes

Nov. 22, 2021

We introduced our newest team member Dr. Peter Saranchuk. Peter works at Bridges CHC; previously he spent 10 years with Mediciens Sans Frontieres, and has experience treating TB and HIV.

**STI treatment kits** are now at each clinic location. **If you use one, notify me to replace it.** each site has: a single dose of azithromycin (for known chlamydia) AND a single dose Azithromycin plus ceftriaxone (for gonorrhoea or unsure). Ceftriaxone has 2 choices of diluent: xylocaine, or water (for people allergic to xylo)

- **narcan kits** for handing out to patients are being distributed to all clinics. Training for our team during our regular Zoom check-in meeting Dec 6 at 430-5 - Public Health will train us to teach patients how to use the kits, and we'll learn how to document so that Public Health will send us more!

- **foot care** - screening exams are completed by Niagara College Health students (RPN, paramedic, etc); Audrey (our foot care nurse) will see patients who have a problem. NOTE all of these are Wed mornings, 9-12.

Wednesday, November 24 – Start Me Up Niagara (SMUN) day drop-in

Wednesday, December 1 – Southridge

Wednesday, December 8 – SMUN

Wednesday, December 15 – Southridge (Audrey, foot care nurse, on-site for treatments)

Wednesday, December 22\* – SMUN

The service will resume in January (likely the week of January 3rd). Schedule TBD. More details to follow.

### - **safer supply**

In collaboration with Public Health, the Safe Injection Site and others, we are exploring the creation of a Safer Supply initiative in Niagara, along the lines of what's currently happening in other centers in Ontario and across the country. Health Canada has a grant available to help regions set up such programs and Niagara has applied. We hope to hear in the next 2 months. If successful, there will be a team offering this to patients in parallel with REACH services, but we will remain focused on primary care. in case we don't get the grant, discussions are underway about what can be done using existing resources in Niagara. This is contentious. On the "con" side: Vincent Lam's recent Globe

article: <https://www.theglobeandmail.com/opinion/article-as-a-doctor-i-was-taught-first-do-no-harm-thats-why-i-have-a-problem/>

on the "pro" side: recent CME half-day in Niagara: <https://youtu.be/NYdCURkea2w>

More discussions will follow among our group.

### - **safety on the MHC**

Providers are looking for a way to alert the other provider on the vehicle in case they feel unsafe. Current suggestions:

1. keep blind up between rooms unless examining a patient.
2. exit via back door (practice opening it as you have to pull the handle hard)
3. David will seek safety plan from other Telus Mobile Clinic users.
4. David will investigate devices to signal the other provider.

Cindy - no clinic at Project Share this thursday. Karl will provide primary care coverage, Katie will drive the MHC in the morning and relocate it at noon; Karl will give her a ride back to her clinic.

Here's a link to the REACH online calendar: feel free to share this with outreach workers and others who might help our patients find us. <https://teamup.com/ks1o6f14bykmkeyo6k>

If you want to make a change to the calendar please use this link (and don't share with outreach and others): <https://teamup.com/ksfrn744tco8zv2dcg>

Here's the REACH contact list - web-based, I try to keep it up to date. Please let me know if any link or phone number stop working.

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/18lnwyHxkXe0DaxGrL2ApEJG6R3aizfIZ/edit?usp=sharing&oid=113830953747059194071&rtpof=true&sd=true>