



Legislative Assembly
Assemblée législative

Meeting: SD 89-18-2018

STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

MONDAY FEBRUARY 12, 2018
COMMITTEE ROOM "A"
12:00 PM -1:00 PM (lunch provided)

AGENDA

1. **Prayer**
2. **Review and Adoption of Agenda**
 - a) Decision on *In Camera* items (items marked with an asterisk [*] may be dealt with in camera)
3. **Declaration of Conflicts of Interest**
4. **Today's Committee Business:**
 - a) **Joint In-Camera Briefing with the Ministers of HSS and ECE on the Child and Youth Mental Wellness Action Plan: Child and Youth Care Counsellors**
5. **Date and Time of Next Meeting: February 14, 2018 10:30 AM**
6. **Adjournment**

Standing Committee on Social Development

Presentation on the Establishment of NWT School and Community Child and Youth Care Counsellors

Minister Glen Abernethy Opening Remarks

February 12, 2018

Good afternoon Mr. Chair and Committee Members. I would like to thank you and the Committee Members for your invitation and for the opportunity to discuss the joint Department HSS-ECE new Child and Youth Care Counsellor initiative with you. I am pleased to be joined by my colleague, the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, Alfred Moses. With us we have, from Health and Social Services:

- Bruce Cooper, Deputy Minister
- Patricia Kyle, Assistant Deputy Minister for Families and Communities
- Sara Chorostowski, Manager, Mental Health and Addictions
- Cat Sills, Senior Advisor to the Deputy Minister, and
- Susan Laramée, Special Ministerial Advisor

And from the Department of Education, Culture and Employment:

- Sylvia Haener, Deputy Minister,
- Olin Lovely, Assistant Deputy Minister, Corporate Services,
- Rita Mueller, Assistant Deputy Minister, Education and Culture,
- Julia Mott, Senior Advisor to the Deputy Minister, and
- Maia LePage, Special Ministerial Advisor

Mr. Chair, in speaking with youth across the NWT, we have heard loud and clear that there is a need for accessible counselling supports that are available in a variety of settings and delivered in a youth-friendly and nonjudgmental way.

In response to this, we have partnered with the Department of Education, Culture and Employment, to create 42 Child and Youth Care Counsellor positions, and seven clinical supervisor positions, to be added to our existing services. This initiative represents a truly collaborative and integrated approach between the health and social services and education systems, and most importantly, will allow for a holistic, integrated and therapeutic approach to better meet the needs of children and youth in the NWT.

Child and Youth Care Counsellors will be available in both school and community settings and will provide specialized mental health care and support to young people. They will also be available to act as a resource for teachers and school staff, as well as family members and adults who play an important role in the lives of children and youth.

This initiative pays dividends to the hard work, planning and partnerships forged through the development of the Child and Youth Mental Wellness Action Plan and guiding Strategic Framework. Through this initiative, we will significantly increase the overall mental health and wellness supports in almost every school and community in the NWT. This proposal is truly transformational as it has been informed by the voices of northern youth themselves and provides them with the supports they require in a manner that best reflects their needs.

Mr. Chair, with your permission I will ask that the two Assistant Deputy Ministers, Patricia Kyle and Rita Mueller lead us through the presentation.

Following the presentation Minister Moses and I will be happy to answer Committees questions.

Thank you.

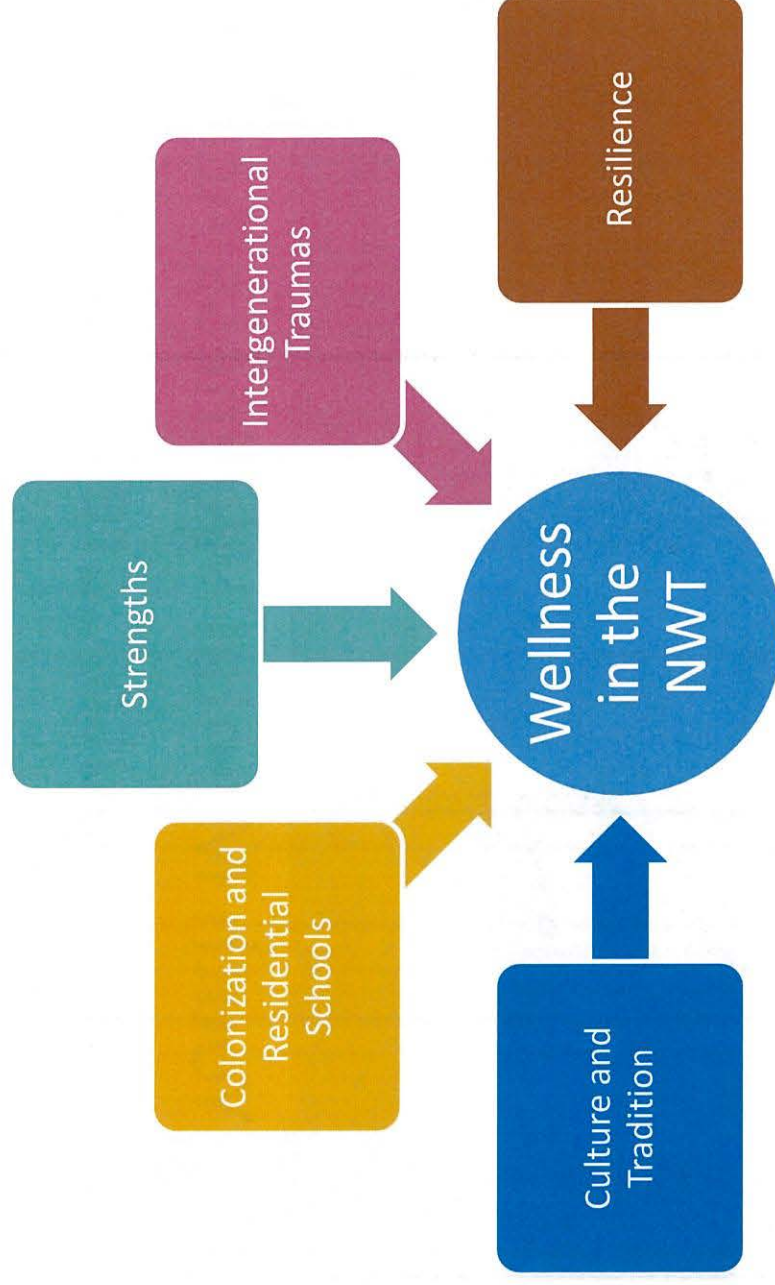


Child and Youth Mental Wellness Action Plan: Child and Youth Care Counsellors

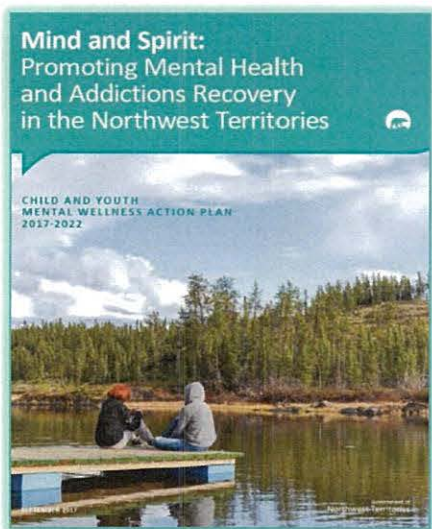
A presentation to the Standing Committee on Social Development

February 12, 2018

Current State

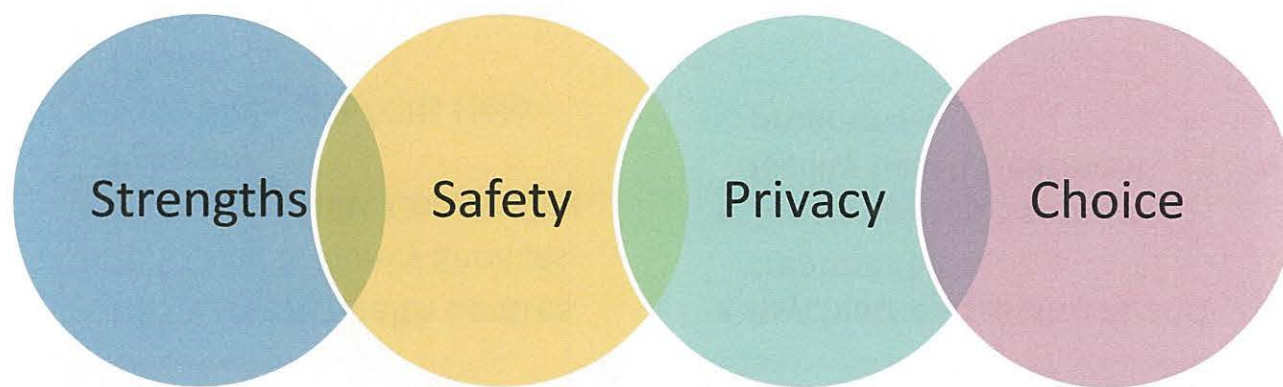


Child and Youth Mental Wellness Action Plan



- Released in September 2017
- Interdepartmental approach
- Engagement with approximately 130 NWT youth

What We Heard from Youth



Current Services

Prevention

- HSS Maternal & Infant/Child programs
- HSS Healthy Family Program
- HSS Community Wellness programs
- Land and Culture based programs
- ECE Early Childhood Education Programs and Licensed Centres/Family Day Homes

Intervention


- HSS Primary Health Centres
- HSS Child & Family Services
- HSS Community Counselling Program
- NWT Help Line/Kids Help Phone
- ECE travelling team in some small communities
- ECE School & Community Counsellors in some schools

Specialized Care

- Psychiatric Assessment and treatment
- Territorial and Southern facility based treatment programs



Proposal



Child and Youth Care
Counsellors



Travelling Counselling
Team Support



Child and Youth Care Counsellors

- HSS employees
- Part of the Community Counselling Program team
- Mostly in schools but also present in communities
- Interdisciplinary approach



Travelling Counselling Support Team

- Scheduled fly in services
- Support the smallest communities which are not big enough for a full time counsellor
- Provide direct in-school support
- Provide links to other community services



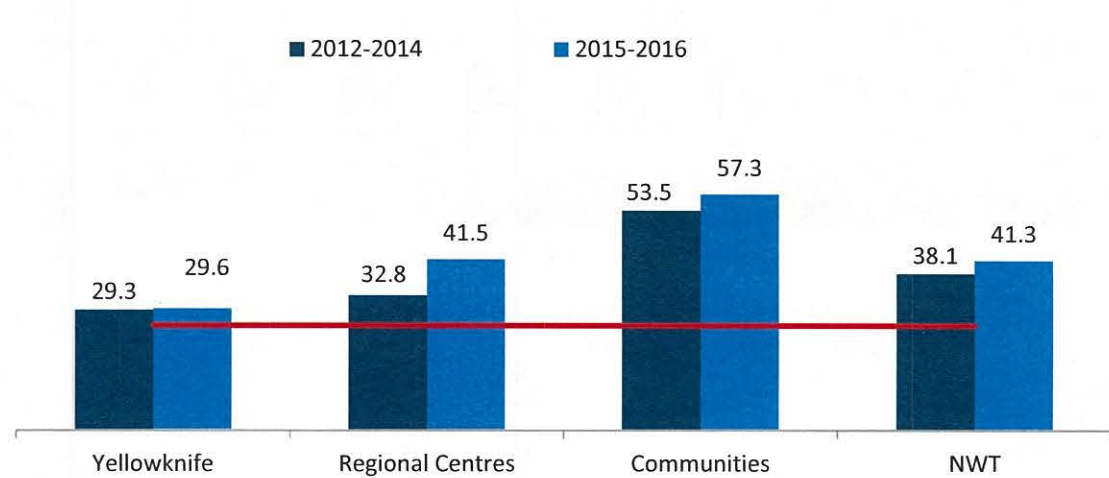
Proposed Implementation Plan

- The proposed approach is to incrementally implement this initiative over a four year period, within specific regions, as follows:
 - 2018-2019 Dehcho and Tlicho
 - 2019-2020 Beaufort Delta and Sahtu
 - 2020-2021 Yellowknife, Dettah and N'dilo
 - 2021-2022 South Slave
- These regions were selected based on level of need, as seen through multiple sources of data.



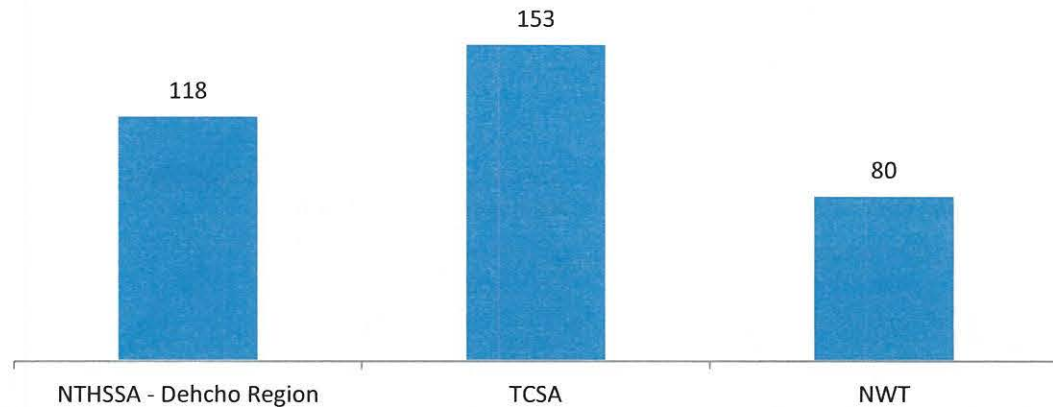
Early Development Instrument Data

Percent Vulnerable on at Least One Domain



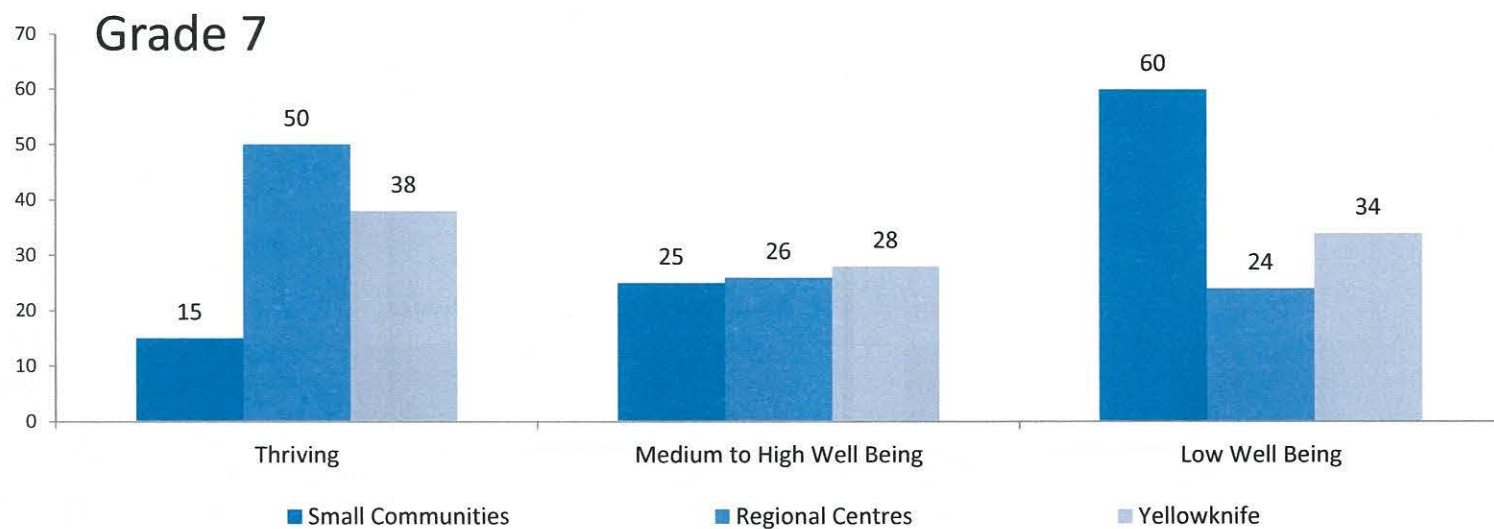
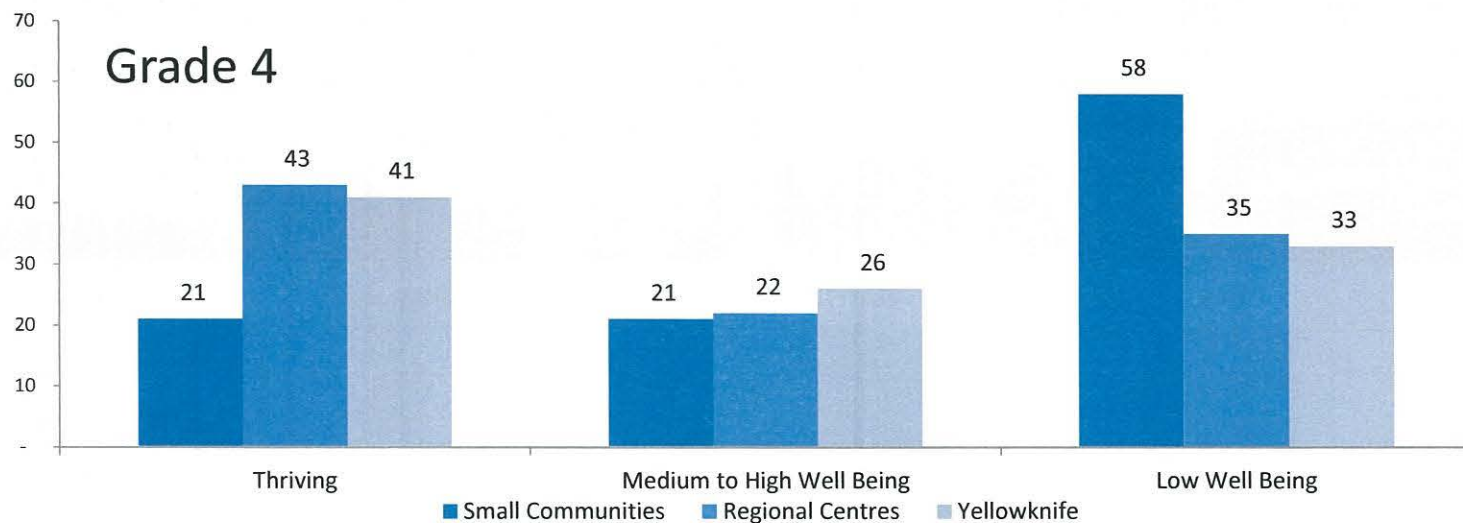
Child and Family Services Data

Children with a Child and Family Services Status – Rate per 1,000 Children



Middle Years Development Instrument Data

Well Being
Index:
Percentage of
Children
Experiencing
(2015-2016)



Proposed Staffing Model

How were counsellor position allocations determined?

| Support Method | School Size |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Travelling Team of Counsellors | Less than 75 students |
| 1 Full time Counsellor | 76 to 250 students |
| 2 Full Time Counsellors | 251 to 500 students |
| 3 Full Time Counsellors | 501 or more students |

These allocations are consistent with typical national ratios within this field of work.



Proposed Staffing: Dehcho Region 2018-19

| Community | School | Students | Service |
|------------------------------------|------------------------|----------|-----------------|
| Fort Liard | Echo Dene | 119 | 1.0 PY |
| Fort Providence/Kakisa | Deh Gah/Kakisa Lake | 139/9 | 1.0 PY |
| Fort Simpson | Bompass/Thomas Simpson | 99/103 | 1.0 PY |
| Jean Marie River | Louis Norwegian | 25 | Travelling Team |
| Nahanni Butte | Charles Yohin | 8 | Travelling Team |
| Saamba K'e | Charles Tetcho | 14 | Travelling Team |
| Wrigley | Chief Julian Yendo | 15 | Travelling Team |
| Total Full Time Counsellors | | | 3.0 |
| Clinical Supervisor | | | 1.0 |
| TOTAL PYS | | | 4.0 |



Proposed Staffing: Tłıcho Region 2018-2019

| Community | School | Students | Service |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------|----------|-----------------|
| Whati | Mezi Community | 146 | 1.0 PY |
| Behchoko | Chief Jimmy Bruneau | 413 | 2.0 PY |
| | Elizabeth Mackenzie School | 205 | 1.0 PY |
| Gameti | Jean Wetrade | 56 | Travelling Team |
| Wekweeti | Alexis Arrowmaker | 33 | Travelling Team |
| Total Full Time Counsellors | | | 4.0 |
| Clinical Supervisor | | | 1.0 |
| TOTAL PYs | | | 5.0 |



Total Investment – Year 1 and over 4 years

| 2018-2019 | Dehcho DEC | | Tłıchǫ CSA | | TOTAL | |
|----------------------------------|------------|---------|------------|---------|-----------|-----------|
| New Investment | Positions | Funding | Positions | Funding | Positions | Funding |
| Child and Youth Care Counsellors | 3.00 | 401,810 | 4.00 | 529,156 | 7.00 | 930,966 |
| Clinical Supervisor | 1.00 | 140,331 | 1.00 | 135,292 | 2.00 | 275,623 |
| Travelling Counselling Team | | 168,000 | | 112,000 | | 280,000 |
| Total New Investment | 4.00 | 710,141 | 5.00 | 776,448 | 9.00 | 1,486,589 |

| Overall 4 years (2018-2022) | TOTAL | |
|----------------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| New Investment | Positions | Funding |
| Child and Youth Care Counsellors | 42 PYs | 5,764,000 |
| Clinical Supervisor | 7 PYs | 885,000 |
| Travelling Team | | 480,000 |
| Total New Investment | 49 PYs | 7,129,000 |



Funding for this Initiative

| Item | Amount |
|---|------------------|
| Health and Social Services (School/Community based Counselling team) | 6,649,000 |
| Education, Culture & Employment (Travelling Counselling Team) | 480,000 |
| TOTAL COST OVER 4 YEARS | 7,129,000 |
| Funding Source: | |
| New Investment | 3,804,000 |
| Education Authority Reallocation to HSS* | 3,325,000 |



Internal Reallocation

- To help offset the cost of this initiative, FMB direction was provided to reallocate the funding in 2018-2019 provided to the Dehcho Divisional Education Council (DDEC) and the Tłıchǫ Community Services Agency (TCSA) for counselor positions.
- The table below outlines the funding currently provided and proposed to be redirected to this initiative.

| | Dehcho | | Tłıchǫ | | Total | |
|------------------------------|-------------|----------------|-------------|----------------|-------------|----------------|
| Territorial Schools | | | | | | |
| School Community Counsellors | 1.60 | 159,502 | 2.70 | 263,080 | 4.30 | 422,582 |
| Inclusive Schooling | | | | | | |
| Wellness Counsellors | 2.00 | 205,311 | 1.25 | 125,846 | 3.25 | 331,157 |
| TOTAL | 3.60 | 364,813 | 3.95 | 388,926 | 7.55 | 753,739 |



Next Steps

- Continue to work with the Dehcho and Tlicho Education Authorities and Health Authorities to staff all positions in time for the 2018-19 school year.
- Continue working with all Education Authorities to:
 - Determine staffing considerations within each authority
 - Identify space in schools
 - Finalize communication and messaging for school staff, parents and students



Standing Committee on Social Development

Presentation on the Establishment of NWT School and Community Child and Youth Care Counsellors

**Minister Alfred Moses
Closing Remarks**

February 12, 2018

Mr. Chair, thank you for the opportunity to speak to Committee about this important initiative and collaboration between our two departments.

We understand, as all of you here today do, that student health and wellbeing is what positive student outcomes and academic success are built upon. This initiative is one of a number of efforts currently being developed and implemented in our education system to strengthen supports we can provide to our JK – Grade 12 students in the Northwest Territories.

When my department engaged extensively with stakeholders at the front end of the Education Renewal initiative, the need for mental health counsellors in schools was heard loud and clear across the territory.

In my regular face to face meetings with Education Authority Chairpersons I asked them to identify the areas of most concern that they wanted to discuss and focus on tackling. Not surprisingly the first issue chosen by this group of education leaders was the mental health and wellness of students. This is a topic at the forefront of education systems across the country and certainly here at home in the Northwest Territories.

All the data our two departments collect about the wellbeing of our children and youth confirm that this initiative is timely and critical. Education Authorities and community leaders are looking to the Government for solutions in helping deal with the increase of mental health issues that youth and residents are facing.

Minister Abernethy and I are proud of the collaboration between our departments and we are very hopeful, along with our partners, that these Child and Youth Care Counsellors will make an enormous difference in the lives of our children and youth and their overall communities.

Mahsi.