



FORT FRANCES TRIBAL AREA  
**HEALTH SERVICES**

**QUARTER 1  
SERVICE REPORT**

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**2021-2022**

# COMMUNITY HEALTH



## *Community Health Nursing*

On April 3rd, 2021, Ontario entered a province wide lockdown. As a result of the ongoing Pandemic, a State of Emergency was declared in the province on April 8th, and a Stay-at-home Order was implemented. With the increase in restrictions due to the Stay-at-home order, the Community Health team continued to provide services where able.

In the first quarter of the 2021/2022 fiscal year, the Community Health team continued to focus on COVID-19 vaccine clinics, which first started on March 3rd, 2021 for individuals 18 years of age and older. On June 1st, the Community Health team began Youth vaccine clinics to ensure those ages 12 to 18 who were eligible received the vaccine. These clinics required a great deal of planning and organizing. With the assistance of Community Health Directors, Community Health Representatives, and other community partners, the Community Health team completed a total of 58 COVID-19 vaccine clinics in this first quarter. As a result of these clinics, the Community Health team have administered 1205 first doses and 1067 second doses of the vaccine. The Community Health team is also incredibly grateful to the other teams at FFTAHS who were able to provide the support required to carry out these clinics.

In addition to continuing with the COVID-19 vaccine clinics, the Community Health team completed a total of 267 Covid-19 swabs as well as screening and monitoring for symptomatic individuals and case and contact management. The Community Health team have continued to monitor the state of the Pandemic and have kept up to date with the most recent Documents and Guidelines to ensure communities received accurate and timely information. The Community Health team have provided education, supports, resources, and guidance to our communities and assisted with pandemic planning for communities as requested.



When possible, the Community Health team have completed well baby visits, including newborn assessments and referrals, and childhood immunizations. The Community Health team have missed their regular weekly visits to their communities and are excited to get back to initiating community visits once per week over the coming weeks. The Community Health team will continue to provide COVID-19 vaccines and support, however the team will be directing focus back to regularly weekly visits at this time.



## ***Environmental Public Health Officers***

Initiation of the Stay-at-Home Order on April 8th, 2021 provided the Environmental Public Health Officers with an opportunity to continue focusing on orientation and training provided by Indigenous Services Canada as well as other required training. The Environmental Public Health Officers have attended various meetings and provided consultation on up-and-coming projects in community and provided educational resources upon request. The Environmental Public Health Officers continue to work on the development of educational resources as well as presentations on topics such as Mosquitos, Ticks, and Lyme's Disease. In addition, the Environmental Public Health Officers have been a support to the Community Health team by attending several COVID-19 vaccine clinics. The Environmental Public Health Officers' have initiated in-person visits to community and will be continuing to do so as service delivery for Environmental Public Health services transitions from Indigenous Services Canada to FTAHS.



## Children's Oral Health Initiative

The COHI team started off the first quarter of the fiscal year celebrating Oral Health Month as well as National Dental Hygienist's week from April 4th to 10th, 2021. The COHI team initiated its "Zhoomiingwewinan Niigan Eyaagin - Smiles for the Future" social media campaign which focused on the prevention of Early Childhood Caries (ECC). Fact sheets related to the prevention ECC were also developed as part of this campaign.

The COHI team provided virtual oral health support to clients and families by facilitating referrals to dental offices, submitting dental related Jordan's Principle funding proposals and following-up on approved proposals. Three dental related Jordan's Principle funding proposals were submitted in the first quarter. In addition, the COHI team distributed over 640 oral care packages to community children and began preparing for Accreditation in 2022 by completing the Dental Services Self-Assessment Survey and is now meeting bi-weekly to work through the Accreditation Standards.

The COHI team have continued to provide a great deal of support to the Community Health team with their COVID-19 vaccination clinics by preparing paperwork, consents, proof of vaccination cards, loading vaccines for administration, and acting as the monitor for those that received the vaccination. The COHI team also completed Naloxone training and an Anaphylaxis refresher course, both provided by the Community Health team as well as several other training opportunities.

The COHI team began to initiate community engagement in June to obtain feedback related to community readiness for the resumption of COHI services and now has community visits scheduled for the months of July and August. The COHI team are excited to once again be engaged in providing in-person services within the community.



## ***Emergencies Management Coordinator***

In the first quarter of the fiscal year, the Emergencies Management Coordinator has spent a great deal of time creating program materials such as surveys, presentations, engagement sessions, and training. The Emergencies Management Coordinator has sought various opportunities to engage with communities and collaborate with community partners to establish various committees, program opportunities, and working groups. In May, the Emergencies Management Coordinator provided support to Lac La Croix First Nations as the community faced the possibility of evacuation due to nearby forest fires. In addition, the Emergencies Management Coordinator has provided support to the Behavioral Health Services team when communities have faced challenges and has continued to support the Community Health team at COVID-19 vaccine clinics as well as providing daily COVID updates. The Emergencies Management Coordinator has completed multiple training courses including cultural teachings and continues to seek opportunities for training and engagement. The Emergencies Management Coordinator is looking forward to engaging with and collaborating with communities in person and is looking for opportunities for pop-up information sessions.

## **HOME & COMMUNITY CARE**

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### ***Home Care***

Despite the many evolving challenges and restrictions put in place due to COVID-19, our Home and Community Care Department remained committed to providing high quality services through Q1.

The department participated in continued education opportunities, including cultural training, Foot Canada certification, wound care, palliative/end of life, and de-escalating potentially violent situations training.

Our Home and Community Care team has innovatively worked with clients and community leadership to provide nursing, personal care, and case managed services through in-person and virtual appointments. The team supported 231 community members, providing over 1800 interventions in the home with over 6400 total encounters this quarter.



The team expanded with the approval of a Transitions Coordinator and Palliative Care Coordinator who have both been instrumental in the development and implementation of a formalized Palliative Care Program. The goal of the program is to ensure a timely approach to palliative or end of life care, aligning client's wishes, goals and culture while supporting their end of life journey at home, hospital, or long term care facility. A key component of the program is to ensure that each community's practices, beliefs and wishes are captured and integrated into service delivery.



Clients receiving chronic disease management through our Home and Community Care program have been equipped with automatic blood pressure machines, oximeters and thermometers and have received training from their nurse case manager on equipment use, tracking and self-management techniques. The team has been completing virtual wellness appointments with clients where they can provide additional teaching of blood pressure, blood sugar, medication inquiries and are able to escalate any problem or concerns to the client's primary provider.

The team continues to work on pathways for clients experiencing wound complications through a Regional Central Intake System in Thunder Bay. The goal of this pathway is ensure that clients are able to access appropriate levels of care beyond the scope of the HCC team; which may include referrals for vascular, diagnostic imaging, and other specialty fields.

## ***Diabetes and Foot Care***

Our Diabetes and Foot Care program resumed to full services in community in June; supporting 207 community members with 688 total encounters this quarter. Both teams work collaboratively to provide biweekly visits to each community, with a goal of enhancing client's overall knowledge and understanding to set reasonable goals and see a reduced number of diabetic associated complications.

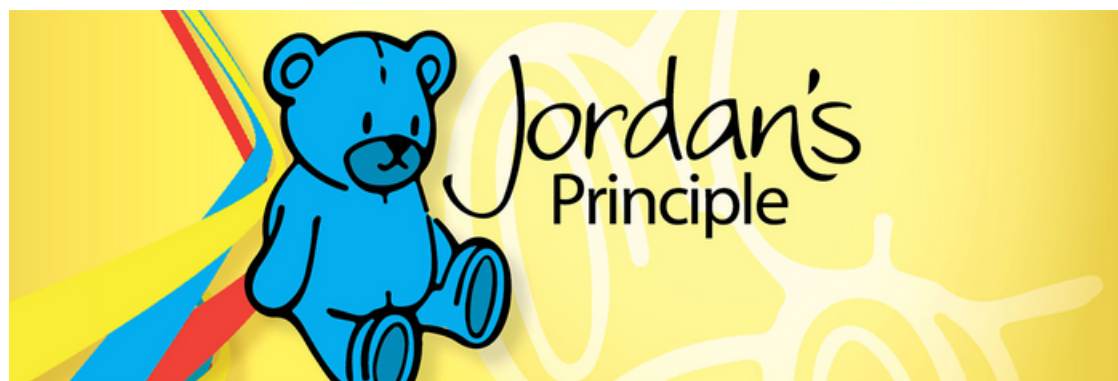


The Diabetes Educator provided blood glucose monitoring, education on diet and exercise, insulin starts and adjustments, as well as supported the Community Health team in the roll out of the COVID-19 vaccination clinics in communities.

The Foot Care team consists of 3 Foot Canada certified registered practical nurses. The team provided diabetic, acute and chronic foot care to clients, including basic foot care, ingrown toenail removal, offloading, callous and corn debridement, management of blisters, cracks, and fissures, as well as the application of Onyfix Nail Correction system this quarter.

## CHILD'S FIRST INITIATIVE

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The Child First Initiative has continued to provide services to children & families during these unprecedented times. In the first quarter of this fiscal year, April through June 2021, the CFI team had 4864 encounters with 340 clients. Though many services continued to be provided virtually, staff began to again travel to the communities to provide in-person services as restrictions allowed. As communities were again able to welcome service providers to visit, CFI team members eagerly travelled to meet with partners, children, and families, offering services and supports as families, schools and daycares requested.

In April 2021, the CFI team offered a '21 day yoga challenge' to children, families, schools, and daycares across the communities. This yoga challenge focused on building mino ayawin through body and breath and supporting overall physical and mental wellbeing. Over 450 yoga mats were provided, along with daily yoga poses and ending with a full virtual yoga flow session. On May 10, 2021, the CFI team hosted a Virtual Teddy Bear Party to celebrate "Bear Witness Day" and the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal (CHRT) ruling enforcing Jordan's Principle in Canada. "Teddy Bear" party packs were delivered to over 100 children in the 10 communities. Children and families enjoyed virtual games, stories, crafts, and snack time.

Throughout the month of June, the CFI team encouraged families to practice Mino ayawin by connecting to Mother Earth through gardening. Gardening kits (fabric garden beds, soil, seeds, tools, and a garden journal) were provided to 250 families across our communities, promoting family togetherness and wellbeing.

As we move into summer, the CFI team has many exciting projects planned. Summer activity packs are being distributed to over 350 children to support fun, physical activity, and overall wellbeing. Our Children's Mental Health Therapist, with our Cultural Support Worker, will be visiting communities offering art therapy groups and activities. Fun groups for children are being offered by our Infant/Child Development Team, as well as our Physiotherapist and Occupational Therapists.

All CFI service providers including Speech Language Pathology, Occupational Therapy, Physiotherapy, Cultural Support, Infant/Child Development, Behavioural Therapy, and Case Managers, are organizing regular scheduled visits to communities to reconnect with partners and families. We are grateful for the strong relationships that we have developed and look forward to our ongoing partnerships in all of the communities.

## MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

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### *Mental Health Counselling*

In the first quarter, Mental Health Services provided Counselling services to 243 individuals on their active caseload assignments. Mental Health Counsellors provided counselling services for essential in person and virtual. All in person sessions were conducted by appointment only with COVID-19 screening prior to appointment. During this period, Mental Health supported



51 Mental Health Direct Line Sessions for individuals with urgent need for Mental Health Support. 4 Mental Health staff completed their first course in Con-current Disorders with CAMH.

The month of May celebrating Mental Health Awareness Week, Mental Health wanted to take the time to celebrating those who overcame their mental health challenges and to empower others through their stories. The video launched during mental health week to celebrate wellness and reduce the stigma of mental health.



In the month of June Mental Health Services supported Pride Month by the delivery of FFTAHS Pride Lawn signs which were distributed to the 10 Communities to raise awareness and show support to the 2SLGBTQQIA+ Community.



In light of the tragic discoveries of the unmarked and mass graves, the Mental Health Services team has been supporting in a few different ways. A few Community requests were received and supported to have Mental Health Counsellors on site for support for Community Events. Mental Health has provided fire wood, food and beverages to support numerous Community healing activities. Mental Health hosts a weekly sharing circle "Honouring our Children" for those needing a safe space to processes. The circle began virtual but has now moved in person.



## ***Mental Wellness***

Mental Wellness delivered Mental Health First Aid training to Community workers and Employees of FFTAHS. The program was able to deliver 100 food deliveries to the 10 Communities in Southern Treaty Three during the stay at home order as a means of suicide prevention. The program began planning for their Golf for Wellness event and 70 golf card passes were given to Community members for both Kitchen Creek and Heron Landing.

## ***Mememgwaawag Program***

The Mememgwaawag Program supported a few clients in safe space relocation in the first quarter. They also delivered training to individuals and service providers virtually in the area. The program collaborated with others to deliver MMIWG Day awareness campaigns and provided resources for the MMIWG walk hosted by GCT3. The program also provided support during the Northern treaty 3 regional engagement session on the MMIGWG National Action Plan and hosted their quarterly committee meeting with service providers from the area.



## ***Cultural and Land-Based Programming***

The Cultural Community Support Worker continues to provide Cultural support to inmates of the Fort Frances Jail through the Native Inmate Liaison program. He was able to support the inmates in a Ceremony for Indigenous Peoples day and completed training on handling female inmates with the FF jail. The Land-Counsellor continued to provide support and recommendations for Pretreatment and Aftercare curriculum development. They also provided support to the Golf for Wellness event with the Mental Wellness program.

All Mental Health programs are working under a rotational basis of Community Visits, Office days and Remote days. We are very excited moving into the second quarter to begin delivering more outdoor wellness events. Miigwech!

# MINO AYAA TA WIN HEALING CENTRE

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## *Withdrawal Management and Residential Treatment*

MATW remains operational with in person residential addiction services. In Q1, MATW provided support to 17 clients through the withdrawal management program and 13 in the residential treatment program.

Withdrawal management clients continue to be prescreened by phone prior to admission to the program. The program is also exploring options to increase bed capacity and allow for co-ed detox.

Residential treatment clients continue to be asked to provide a negative COVID-19 testing result, are screened upon admission and testing again on site for COVID-19. With the updates to the congregate living settings guidelines near the end of Q1 the program was able to have outside Elder, Knowledge Keepers provide support in an outdoor setting.

Community Engagements were held with 3 focus groups: Clients, Elders and Community Workers to gain better understanding of Addictions Aftercare needs for the area. Common themes include: Culturally-based Aftercare, and collaboration amongst service providers.

MATW continues to work on site and is looking forwards to more Community Engagement opportunities with the 10 Communities to gain information how we can best provide support.

Miigwech,  
FFTAHS Team

