

Guiding Lights

WHAT IS IT

The purpose of this strategy is to address the needs of those identified as social chronic clients in North Vancouver and to reduce the probability of recidivism. In order to assist in reducing social chronic clients, the RCMP intends to engage community stakeholders to improve the effectiveness of existing programs and identify any previously unaddressed opportunities.

WHY IS IT NEEDED

Crime places a financial burden on the criminal justice system. Having peer support programs can result in less money being placed in traditional responses to crime. This is needed as treatment and prevention are the cheapest and most effective ways of overcoming crime.

HOW IT WORKS/METHODS

The peer mentor program aids social chronic clients in identifying and navigating the appropriate programs available to them through the CMHA and ultimately find employment.

OUTCOMES AND FINDINGS

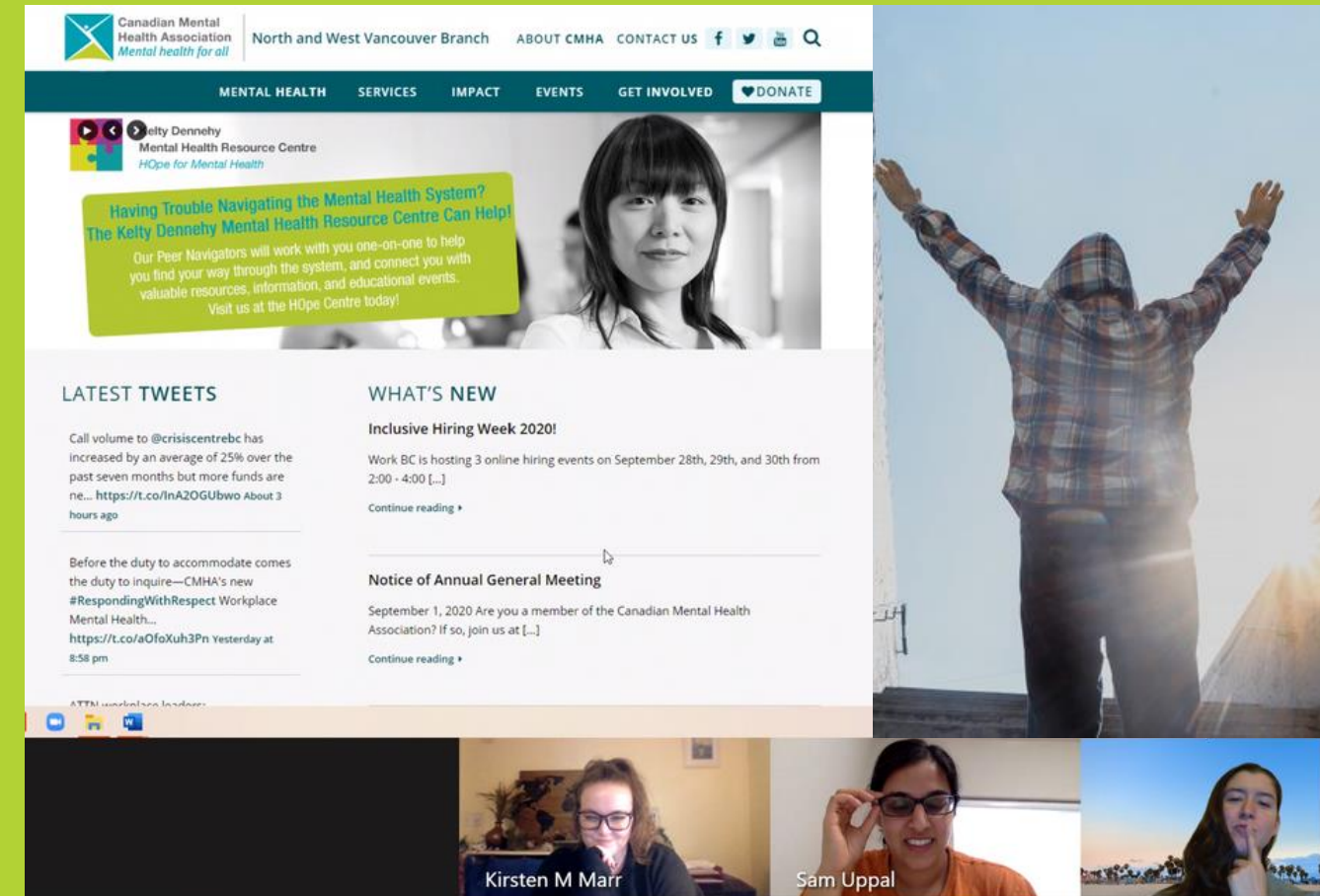
A study in 2013 also concluded that peer support models along with support services resulted in an increase in the quality of life and decrease in involvement in the criminal justice system in people experiencing homelessness (Bean, Shafer, & Glennon, 2013).

Research has proven that "shifting integrated mental health care to the community is unequivocally the most sensible economic decision, as community mental health services are five times less expensive than hospital-based care" (Malachowski, 2019).

NEXT STEP

The next steps are for the RCMP and CMHA would be:

1. Develop a training program for newly hired peer mentors
2. Contact and recruit potential candidates for the peer mentor program
3. Work with the newly hired peer mentors to adapt the existing CMHA programs to attend to any specific needs of the social chronic clients that have not yet been addressed



BADM 460

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CityStudio North Vancouver is an experimentation and innovation hub for the City of North Vancouver where CNV staff and Capilano University students and faculty co-create projects to make North Vancouver a more vibrant, sustainable and healthy city.

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