

May 8 2017

Proposal to Middlesex London Health Unit

**Re: Harm Reduction Community Capacity Building Coordinator
Proposed Budget total \$62,355**

RHAC is proposing the introduction of a Harm Reduction Community Capacity Building Coordinator (HRCCBC) position to advance a primary objective of increasing access points for harm reduction equipment. RHAC fully supports the concept of securing multiple distribution sites across the community. However in the process it will be critical to ensure the quality of the services provided to PWID achieve a standard comparable to those provided through RHACs Counterpoint which were developed using the Canadian Best Practices for Harm Reduction - <http://www.catie.ca/sites/default/files/bestpractice-harmreduction-part2.pdf>. This will require appropriate training and support to sites and community work to increase support for “neighbourhood based” harm reduction services.

The Harm Reduction Community Capacity Building Coordinator (HRCCBC) will function to achieve the following objectives;

- Increase London’s distribution points (satellite sites) for access to harm reduction materials
- Provide initial and ongoing training to staff associated with expanded access points
- Support satellite sites with support (change to required technology) and problem solving
- Conduct site visits to ensure compliance with service delivery agreements
- Provide community education sessions on the subject of harm reduction
- Increase uptake of harm reduction services within Aboriginal communities
- Support impact evaluation processes

The HRCCBC will work with social services, pharmacies and other potentially appropriate distribution sources with the goal to increase access to harm reduction materials for PWID. This strategy will complement existing fixed site and van distribution services and will ensure all involved are trained on harm reduction philosophy, HIV/AIDS and HCV, safe disposal, equipment use/application and the impact of stigma. MLHU will work with RHAC to identify willing and suitable pharmacy locations. Once identified, these locations will be approached by RHAC to advance identified objectives.

Each satellite site will be required to;

- Enter into a service delivery agreement with RHAC (to be reviewed annually)
- Participate in harm reduction training for staff who will be providing equipment
- Comply with best practice recommendations for NSP services
- Utilize the web based Neo data base system for statistical tracking purposes
- Contact the HRCCBC to help problem solve issues that may arise

Further this position will work with the Director of Counterpoint Harm Reduction Services to achieve the objective of advancing the introduction of harm reduction services within our local Aboriginal communities. Over the past number of years RHAC has been working with local Aboriginal groups to

build their capacity for integrating harm reduction within their menu of supports. This ongoing work requires culturally sensitive approaches and dedicated resources.

The new sites will be asked to distribute pre-assembled kits containing all required equipment for safer injection practices. RHAC proposes the expansion of peer programming to achieve this aspect of program delivery. While it is somewhat difficult to project distribution volumes we have projected having 2 peers working on kit assembly for three hours per week 52 weeks per year. They will be paid an honorarium equivalent to \$15.00 per hour.

Additionally with the goal to foster increased support and understanding of harm reduction within our community the HRCCBC will provide community education regarding the harm reduction philosophy, guiding principles and local menu of services. This will ease the pressure of current Counterpoint staff who are frequently being pulled from front line services to accommodate these kinds of requests. This service will not be marketed to community but the position would respond when such requests are made.

Deliverables over a 12 month period;

- Contact all specific pharmacies recommended by MLHU with the goal to assess suitability and contract as appropriate – minimum of 3 pharmacies
- Recruit and contract with 3 social service environments to provide gear distribution
- Development of a satellite site Harm Reduction training program; including HR 101, NEO, HIV/AIDS/HCV and the impact of stigma (this would also include a reference manual to be kept at each site)
- Deliver training to all associated staff of each satellite site (including new staff)
- Provide maintenance drop in visits to satellite sites to provide support and ensure compliance with contract
- Conduct an annual evaluation of participating sites (to be developed with MLHU)

Proposed Budget;

HRCCBC 1 FTE	
Salary	\$43,000
Benefits @ 20%	\$ 8,600
Cell Phone	675
Travel @ .40Km	\$ 1,200
Computer	\$ 1,200
Supervision	\$ 3,000
Peer Kit Work	\$ 4,680
Total	\$62,355