
For Immediate Release | July 11, 2018

New location sought for Princeton mental health drop-in centre

PRINCETON – Effective July 6, Interior Health (IH) has closed the Kn ala Inclusion House Mental Health Program location on Kenley Avenue, citing safety concerns about the building where the services are provided.

The Kenley Avenue closure comes following a WorkSafe BC order at the end of June which included a \$628,000 penalty to IH for a 2016 incident at the same site.

“Safety is a key priority for us at Interior Health,” said Danielle Cameron, mental health and substance use health services administrator for IH Central. “IH has reviewed the findings of the WorkSafe BC investigation into the 2016 incident, and determined that the Kenley Avenue is not suitable from a safety perspective. For that reason, we have asked the service provider to cease operations at their current building and find a new location within 90 days.”

The Lower Similkameen Community Services Society (LSCSS) was contracted by IH to open and operate the Kn ala Inclusion House mental health drop-in centre for people living with mental illness and substance use disorders in the spring. The House opened to clients on July 2.

The LSCSS continues to run regular activities for clients Monday to Thursday, from 9 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. in the community, including coffee clubs, outings and wellness clinics. Other facility-based programming will resume once a new permanent location is secured.

An IH-operated mental health Anchorage Clubhouse program at the same Kenley Avenue location closed in August 2016 immediately following an incident that resulted in injuries at the site. It was this incident that led to the WorkSafe BC investigation and the financial penalty.

“We regret the impact this facility closure has on clients of the Kn ala Inclusion House,” said Cameron.

IH would like to thank the LSCSS and the Town of Princeton for their ongoing commitment to these services and the clients who benefit from them. IH is committed to working with LSCSS and the Town of Princeton to review options and find a safe alternate location for this service as quickly as possible.

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