Partnership in Action

Interior Health and ASK Wellness

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Streets → Homes → Health → Employment

About ASK Wellness

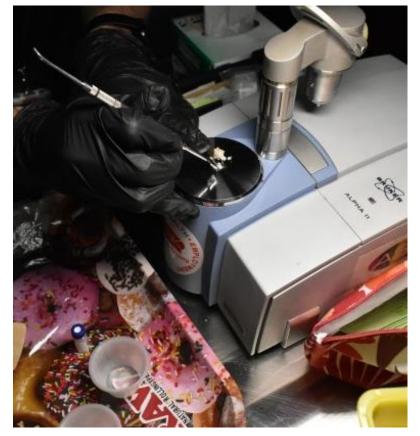
- VISION: To work towards a society that recognizes the value and potential of each individual.
- HISTORY: ASK has been providing client-centered services for 30 years for the marginalized and persons at risk, offering a variety of support programs across a continuum of Streets, to Homes, to Health, to Employment.
- Services re. housing, substance use, mental health, harm reduction, health education, supports for those with developmental disabilities, and employment opportunities.
- ASK has long contracted services including Population Health, Acquired Brain Injury, and through Mental Health and Substance Use in the Thompson/Nicola region.





Complex needs in complex times

- Dual public health emergencies
- Homelessness, substance use and mental health are an area of focus for Interior Health communities
- Combining health, housing and social services under one roof
- With respect, advocacy and a client-focused approach ASK and IH come together in the intersection of these complex issues



Drug checking at ASK. Photo: Levi Landry





Examples of innovation

- 2012: Adult Addictions Supportive Housing *located in Kamloops and Merritt*
- 2016: Overdose Prevention Services established in 10 days
- 2020: T-iOAT program developed in partnership with IH and delivered by ASK as COVID 19 impacts arrived
- 2020/2022: COVID Isolation Services *serving vulnerable populations*





Collective impacts

- Collaborative client centred approach
- Daily collaboration with ASK providing life-skills and housing and IH staff leading clinical care
- Reduced hospitalization with community based care
- Critical partnership facing opiate, homelessness, and pandemic concurrently
- ASK has expanded its housing portfolio to currently provide 735 units of housing across Kamloops, Merritt, and Penticton





Future focus

- Efforts to improve pathways from homelessness and substance misuse to recovery and community engagement
- Higher rates of engagement in OAT therapies
- Improved community understanding of partnership and mutual objectives



Spero House Supportive Housing, Kamloops





Questions?





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