

BCACHC MEMBER NEWSLETTER CLOSING OUT 2019



BCACHC

BRITISH COLUMBIA ASSOCIATION
OF COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTRES

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD



**BCACHC PRESIDENT
GREY SHOWLER**

Hello CHCs across BC. Your BCACHC Board has been busy this Fall connecting to our members across the province and working with the Ministry of Health to increase support for current and future CHCs. As I mentioned in our last newsletter, the Ministry has committed to 3 to 5 new CHCs or enhancement of current CHCs, each year. While the Ministry is not permitting official release of the CHC names yet, 4 communities have been chosen so far and are working with the Ministry to develop and implement plans for community based primary health care services with a focus on health equity, health promotion and the social determinants of health. This is the first substantial commitment to the CHC sector in BC in decades, and while we are appreciative of this investment, we know there is even

more demand than is currently being planned for. I speak to communities around BC each week that want to develop their own CHC and to existing CHCs facing significant funding challenges. BCACHC is working to help the Ministry understand the untapped potential of existing and new CHCs.

As part of BCACHC's efforts to work with government, we have now established monthly meetings between our Board and the Ministry of Health so that we can continue to dialogue about the challenges and opportunities that CHCs face. This is a significant step forward for BCACHC and for all of us as a CHC movement in the province. It will hopefully translate into improved understanding of the challenges CHC face and the potential we have to meet the health and social needs of British Columbians.

We also want to thank all those that came out for our first virtual Town Hall meeting Dec 10. We had 16 participants representing over half our membership and it was great to hear folks sharing their stories and knowledge with each other. We plan to hold these Town Halls regularly as a way to build our own community despite the geographical spread of our members. We hope that you will join us to share and learn from others CHCs.

On behalf of the Board, I want to wish everyone a healthy and happy Holiday season. It is privilege to serve you and we all look forward to working together in the year ahead.

FEATURED IMPACT STORY

Our impact story for this newsletter comes to you in three parts. Check out the debut of our "Community Health Stories" micro-podcast, featuring an impact story about Gabriola Island Mental Health and Substance Use Action Team.



Want to share your
impact story?

Contact Rachel at
rachelmalenachan@gmail.com

**DID YOU MISS OUT
ON OUR FALL
WEBINAR SERIES?**

Links to recordings and toolkits:

1. Intro to Telling our Stories as Community Health Centres
2. CHC Communications How-To
3. Virtual Town Hall

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MEET OUR BCACHC MEMBERS

UMBRELLA MULTICULTURAL HEALTH CO-OP



Front left: Esther Hsieh,
BCACHC Board Member and
Executive Director at Umbrella
Multicultural Health Co-op
in New Westminster, BC

What health challenge does Umbrella Co-op focus on?

Immigrant and refugee communities in BC often slip through the cracks of mainstream health and social programming.

What role does your CHC play in your community?

The unique design of the Umbrella Co-op team is ideal for supporting families to achieve well-being in a new, unfamiliar place.

Where is this approach headed?

There is increasing demand for Umbrella Co-op's team-based health services and community-led social programs, and the model is completely scalable.

What will it take to increase your impact?

A fresh funding approach is needed to stabilize and scale up specialized, wrap-around teams like the Umbrella Multicultural Health Co-op.

MEET YOUR BCACHC BOARD MEMBERS

PIOTR MAJKOWSKI



Board Member, REACH Community Health Centre, Vancouver, BC

Where do you work?

I'm a nursing instructor and researcher at Douglas College, and I also run a farm with my husband. In addition to REACH CHC, I also serve on the boards of the professional colleges of chiropractors and opticians.

What's your favorite part of your job?

Seeing students become more critical about the health system, and their role in it.

Where do you see the impact of REACH CHC most clearly?

Every time I meet a REACH CHC client, they tell me how much they love seeing their care provider.

What TV show are you watching right now?

Mindhunter.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

Wishing you a safe and happy holiday season.
See you in 2020!

UPDATE ON CHCs IN BC

- Four CHCs are currently in some stage of development with the Ministry of Health with all of them launching new or enhanced services in 2020. We hope the Ministry will publicly release names of the CHCs and details of these developments in early 2020.
- The Ministry of Health is close to releasing their Supportive Policy on CHCs which outlines the traits of CHCs and how they fit into the primary care system. We are encouraged to learn that our core attributes have been adopted in the policy and that CHCs are viewed as serving both specialized populations, as well as the general community.
- The Ministry has made it clear that CHCs need to fit into planning around Primary Care Networks (PCN). Both current and future CHCs must work with their local PCN to insure coordination of services. BCACHC has made the Ministry aware that many communities struggle to access their local PCN planning and the Ministry committed to directing local Divisions of Family Practice and Health Authorities to invite CHCs to the PCN table.
- Congratulations to REACH CHC in Vancouver who will be running the first CHC-based Urgent and Primary Care Centre in BC.

UPDATE ON BCACHC COMMUNICATIONS

Thanks to all of our members who have engaged with our Communications Specialist, Rachel Malenachan, on communications projects to date. We know that our ability to grow and sustain CHCs is dependent on awareness and champions of the CHC model. Get in touch with Rachel (rachelmalenachan@gmail.com) to learn more about BCACHC communications projects, including:

- Profiles of each member CHC as infographics for the BCACHC website, as well as print versions for member use
- Short podcast episodes about CHC impact stories, our supporters, key concepts and principles
- "A Day in the Life" of your CHC to be featured on our Twitter feed, with posts throughout the day about your team's work

Watch for profiles and podcast episodes to be shared weekly on the BCACHC Twitter feed starting in the New Year, and be sure to share posts through your own accounts as well.

We're currently compiling a list of physicians and other health professionals who would be willing voice their support for the CHC model. Let us know if someone on your team or in your community might be willing to:

- Connect with the BCACHC team to discuss the best ways for us to engage this type of support
- or
- Participate in a podcast interview about their thoughts on the CHC model and its impact
- or
- Contribute a written testimonial about the value of CHCs to other parts of BC health and social systems

