

DRAFT Minutes
CBR in BC Quarterly
February 12, 2015
9:00 am – 11:30 am

Location: **McLaren Housing Society (1249 Howe Street) and via teleconference**

Attendees: Janice Duddy, Evin Jones, Mona Lee, Evin Jones, Saranee Fernando, Terry Howard, Daniella Barreto, Chuck Osborne, Heidi Safford, Surita Parashar, Otto Von Bischoffshausen, Michael Smith, Saira Mohammed, Darren Lauscher, Alana MacHattie, Patrick McDougall, Sarah Chown, Heather Picotte, Allison Carter, Alia Leslie, Olivier Ferlatte, Sandy Lambert, Sherri Pooyak, Sarah Kesslering, Andrea Langlois, Gina McGowan, Cathy Worthington, Chrissy Taylor, Ross Harvey, Jonathan Postnikoff, Joanna Mendell, Jamie Reschny, Romari Undi

Agenda:

- 1. Welcome**
- 2. Approval of Previous Minutes:** Approved
- 3. Approval of Agenda** – add in items under #7 Emerging Issues and #8 Updates
- 4. Dr. Peter’s new learning modules (Patrick)**

Prezi-based learning modules were developed as an online learning strategy/knowledge translation tool to recruit, hire, train, orient, supervise, and mentor Peer Research Associates (PRAs) as part of the Dr. Peter Study. Modules can be accessed from the “research” section of Dr. Peter Centre website. Prezi can be a story-telling tool – web-based, audio, KT tool allows for easy dissemination, revisions, and access.

Key findings: 1) One size does not fit all – need to consider unique needs of the organizations and PRAs, and really need to take time to take each step carefully in order to do it well, 2) GIPA/MIPA – need to carry out the action (don’t just end in talking), 3) not just a HIV model – can be applied to other chronic diseases as they’re meant as transferable knowledge/skills.

Note: board and ED modules intentional – modules not just beneficial to the community but also to the whole organization e.g. funding, story telling for the donor

For everyone to consider: Need evaluation by the viewers (each of them takes ~45 minutes)

- 5. Proposed working group looking at evaluating the CBR process (Janice)**

To develop a working group to look at evaluation CBR process, in order to explore:

- CBR's impact on the people involved (important for projects to give back to the community – is the research process fulfilling the role?)
- How well is the project adhering to the CBR principles?
- Different tools available for this process (e.g. how does the CBR process support peers?)
- Are there evaluation questions and tools that we should be sharing? CBR indicators?

There is a potential to moving this forward. Janice will send an invitation to everyone with potential discussion on the table (e.g. agenda).

6. Rise of the Peer Worker Dialogue Session 2 in Halifax (Terry)

At 3rd step to gather information to develop and establish industry's support standards (primarily regarding PRAs). First national dialogue was successful in bringing 22 PRAs across Canada to discuss best practices within geographically- or project-specific perspectives (e.g. what can we adapt from conventional models). During the next dialogue, held in partnership with CAHR, is scheduled for March 9-22, Terry will present the summarized findings/suggestions, and continue the dialogue. Hope is to host it nationally and continuously, but for success, need more partners (in order to represent a wide range of PRAs). This dialogue can also be a network session. Vision: to develop a tool-kit (open access – electronic) and a living document that enables continuous input of new information (not just from one group or one person).

7. Emerging issues discussion: What are common/cross-cutting Issues that would benefit from a discussion at the CBR Quarterly table?

Incentive Study (Saira, CfE): To assess the effectiveness of the use of financial incentives to recruit and retain HIV-positive persons who use injection drugs and are on HAART. Currently, working on 3 sites within BC (Vancouver – downtown eastside; Prince George, Victoria). Facing challenges with recruitment and need new avenues. Some folks on table provided suggestions and will chat after meeting to provide further help. Saira will send an email to PAN who will then circulate to our partners.

8. Program and Project Updates:

Please provide a short summary of each project and consider these three points: one success, one problem encountered, and one lesson learned (*if we have more time at the end of the meeting we can provide people additional time*)

- CIHR REACH CBR Collaborative Centre and REACH 2.0** – Cathy Worthington & Janice Duddy

Summary: CIHR Centre for REACH and CBR Collaborative Centre are two linked national centres. In January 2015, the BC Core Team for these centres was brought together and discussed how to move REACH work forward in BC.

Success: Many enthusiastic people and lots of ideas came forward

Challenge: Narrowing down research priorities

Lesson Learned: People need space to adapt to new way of thinking it is important to provide space for people to have new conversations and to learn to work together in new ways.

b. **Aboriginal HIV & AIDS Community-Based Research Collaborative Centre (AHA Centre)** – Sherri Pooyak

Summary: Aboriginal HIV & AIDS Community-Based Research Collaborative Centre is a sister national centre to REACH. Building capacity for Aboriginal community to conduct research, build capacity and reduce some of the negative images around research

Success: Connecting within BC

Challenge: Struggling to hire someone in Manitoba and Quebec (REACH translated the position description into French – yet still challenging)

Lesson Learned: Convert everything into French! (easy to forget living in the West)

Wise practices conference in July 17-18 held in Vancouver, which is held previous to International HIV conference – hope to get some international folks. Check out CAAN – scholarships available. **Janice** will circulate this information (also in PAN e-news). Wise Practices Information:

- Save the Date poster: <http://www.caan.ca/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/CAAN-Save-The-Date-2015-final1.pdf>
- Abstract forms for Wise Practices: <http://www.caan.ca/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/2015-Wise-Practices-Abstract-Form-final.pdf>

c. **CHIWOS** – Allison Carter

Summary: National longitudinal CBR study with 1,400 HIV-positive women across BC, ON, QC and currently in the process to expand into Manitoba and Saskatchewan

Success: Recruitment of over 1,200 positive women

Challenge: Recruitment in the interior

Lesson Learned: Peer-to-peer surveys are important in creating positive impact on people's lives. Some women found it challenging at the beginning due to stigma (particularly in the interior) but through in-person and phone support, women feel less isolated by connecting with peers. Facilitating connections between participants is possible while keeping confidentiality.

d. **ENGAGE** – Sarah Kesselring and Chuck Osborne

Summary: Explore people's decisions and attitudes toward starting HAART by looking at persons who started HIV medication within last 1 year
Success: Ramped up recruitment, extended it to include people who have been on ARVs for the last 12 mos (up from 6 mos). Important to remember that this may be a time when people are reluctant to talk. Also keeping the project on people's mind – doctors, health providers who are supporting recruitment.
Challenge: Recruitment (without harassing)
Lesson Learned: Reach out to people early on and to prepare for options in advance

e. **Rethinking ASOs?** – Andrea Langlois

Summary: Examining policy shifts around HIV/AIDS from AIDS-exceptionalism to looking at the broader picture (e.g. encompassing other infectious/bloodborne diseases). What are the big challenges within ASOs and how can we collectively work towards serving HIV persons well through this evolution
Success: We did it! Online event reports available with next steps embedded: <http://pacificaidnetwork.org/cbr-musings/rethinking-asos-project-report-now-available/>
Challenge: Being ambitious and scaling back
Lesson Learned: Rethink the process as you go. A great model of learning from strengths and successes.

Results likely will be presented at the PAN conference in the fall

f. **Dr. Peter Centre Evaluation** – Saranee Fernando and Patrick McDougall

Summary: Evaluate Dr. Peter Centre model, various health outcomes of clients, as well as various services and harm reduction strategies. Incorporate both quantitative and qualitative aspects of research.
Success: Engaged different stakeholders who come from different background and harnessed a shared vision. Streamlined and optimized the process (e.g. developing strategies and minimizing conflicts)
Challenge: Recruitment (especially regarding virtual cohort)
Lesson Learned: Through understanding the culture of Dr. Peter Centre and organizational rhythm, recruitment strategies have emerged

g. **Food as harm reduction strategy** – Patrick McDougall

Summary: 3 methodologies (interview HIV-positive persons, who use illicit drugs and access food services; food maps of how each individual is accessing food; interviews with providers)

Success: Community advisory committee (CAC) – diverse, vibrant and engaged

Challenge: Recruitment of the CAC was challenging despite the hope for getting a big wave of applicants

Lesson Learned: Checking in on vehicle to reach out to people. Reaching out (e.g. getting in direct contact with individuals to get help with CAC recruitment).

h. **Positive Living, Positive Homes** – Heather Picotte and Mona Lee

Summary: Case study project to examine the links between HIV and housing in Vancouver, Kamloops and Prince George. Looking at access to housing (in relation to housing policies) and how this impacts persons with HIV.

Success: Hiring the Vancouver Site Coordinator

Challenge: Hiring a coordinator in Prince George (very close to hiring one). Kamloops coming soon

Lesson Learned: Giving people time and space to talk/work through things – being patient for people go through this process. Prince George recruitment meeting was an eye-opener – reminding people why we're here together, etc. (sometimes need to be flexible – not following the agenda strictly)

i. **“At Home at Howe” McLaren housing study** -- Surita Parashar, Heidi Safford, Otto Von Bischoffshausen

Summary: Studying the health and wellbeing of the residents at the McLaren Howe St. Building

Success: Excitement for the project shown at the community kitchen event before recruitment even begun. Transition from paper to computer for surveys.

Challenge: Behind the scene steps. Different expectations on what the role/process actually involves (i.e. immense involvement and capacity required)

Lesson Learned: Being patient and to go with the flow as things come up and arise

j. **BC Stigma Index Project** – Mike Smith

Summary: Stigma Index implemented in 54 countries across the world. For Canada, it's a new 3-year peer-to-peer study. BC is the first province in Canada to implement this. National steering committee is implementing this across Canada (assuming funding is successful – will hear in March 2015). BC is allowing regional- and cultural-specific questions to be added to the standardized quantitative surveys. Action arm of the study – to build resilience in the community, and reduce stigmatization around HIV/AIDS

Success Funded by Vancouver Foundation, CIHR, OHTN, REACH.

Challenge: Recruitment of persons living in interior and northern regions.

Job posting for PLDI and Stigma Index Manager:

<http://pacificaidnetwork.org/job-posting/job-posting-pldi-stigma-index-project-manager-vancouver/>

k. Food Security – Nourishing Communities Dissemination – Joanna Mendell

Summary: CBR project looking at food security and income within persons living with HIV. Currently in dissemination phase

Success: Submitted 2 abstracts for CARR (one is more scientific and data rich; the other is more community- and process-oriented)

Challenge: Taken longer to get data request back than expected (timeline)

Lesson Learned: Keeping people engaged during times of slow process

l. Momentum Health Study – Terry Howard

Summary: 3-year gay men's health study in Greater Vancouver, going into analysis phase and looking for more funding. This is not CBR but Centre for Excellence responded positively to criticisms on not being engaging with the community. Will be presenting at CAHR and International AIDS conference.

Success: Response-driven sampling methodology – coupons given to friends of participants which allows reaching people who are normally not reached. This methodology also allows network mapping of how the people are interacting with each other.

m. Gay Poz Sex Study – Jonathan Postnikoff

Summary: Mixed-method randomized controlled trial in Vancouver and Toronto. Empowering positive gay men to have meaningful conversations around sex and to take a deeper look into the role sex plays in their lives.

Success: Provides an opportunity to improve communication in participants and the process can be a powerful experience

Challenge: Recruitment

Lesson Learned: Sometimes spending money on promotion sometimes yields no return

n. Sex Now – Olivier Ferlatte

Summary: Survey (every 2 years) for gay and bisexual men in BC since 2002. Since 2010, survey became national (available in both French and English). Currently recruiting for the 3rd national survey. The focus has expanded beyond HIV into social determinants of health (e.g. stigma, discrimination).

Success: 3,700 completed surveys

Challenge: Recruitment – need more. Last survey national sample = 8,600

Lesson Learned: 1 in 5 men do surveys on a smartphone. Smartphone version needs to be further optimized for a better survey experience

o. **Moving Mountains** – Jamie Reschny and Andrea Langlois

Summary: CBR research priorities developed for Northern BC. Research working group formed and moving forward on HIV and HepC for sex trade workers and persons who use drugs in North (Quesnel and up)

Success: Meeting up with the group and everyone showed up!

Challenge: Keeping the motivation going for the group. Not everyone wants to be involved in the project for the long term (people want to see the changes now)

Lesson Learned: Would like to bring more people to the table as the research is limited up in the north

p. **SHAWNA Project** – Chrissy Taylor

Summary: Sexual Health & HIV/AIDS: Women's Longitudinal Needs Assessment looks at the gaps in women's sexual health and HIV in Metro Vancouver. Positive women's advisory board and community advisory committee are involved. PRAs were just hired too.

Success: Nearly 900 self-identified sex workers recruited

Challenge: Making the questionnaire manageable. Advisory board application has been tricky – don't want to focus on the oversaturated application pool but instead want to reach out to people who haven't had the opportunity to be involved in research

q. **Incentive Project** – Saira

Refer to agenda item #7

r. **CANOC** – Alia Leslie

Summary: Canadian Observation Cohort Study looking at aging-related co-morbidities. Hiring community investigators, whose capacity will be less related to tasks like conducting interviews, but rather working more with PIs on posing questions to the CANOC data, identifying appropriate methodology for answering these, analysis and reporting..

s. **Others**

9. **Other Agenda Items** – Everyone

10. **Next Meeting**