



Northwest Regional Centre of Responsibility

(formerly known as the Northwest Regional HSJCC)

Report on the March 2019 Priority-Setting Day

Prepared by:

Mariah Maddock, MPH

Coordinator, North West Community Mobilization Network

Canadian Mental Health Association – Thunder Bay

Overview of the COR Priority-Setting Day

Purpose of the COR Priority-Setting Day

On March 28th 2019, over 40 Northwest Regional Centre of Responsibility (COR) members convened in the city of Thunder Bay for a Priority-Setting Day. The purpose of the day was to check-in and assess what the COR should keep/start/stop doing and identify key priorities for the upcoming fiscal year.

What did we do?

The Priority-Setting day began with re-visiting the mandate and collective purpose of the COR, outlining the history of the project, and highlighting what the COR has accomplished over the last 12 months. Information, provincial projects, regional data and trends were shared by the Provincial HSJCC Secretariat and Public Safety Division of the Ministry of Community Safety and Correction Services. The Coordinator of the City of Thunder Bay Crime Prevention Council shared information about Community-Safety and Well-Being Planning legislation and how this could interface with the COR. At various points throughout the day, COR members heard how Situation Table interventions have made a difference in someone's life. This connected everyone to the purpose of why we do the work we do.

With the information shared in the morning in mind, members broke out into small groups and answered a series of questions. This report provides a summary of the responses to these questions, presents key emergent themes and outlines next steps.



Image 1 - Members of the COR

Emergent Priorities and Issues

What priorities have carried forward from 2018 that we need to finish? Looking forward, what should our 2019 priorities be?

Priorities to be carried forward:

- Building and enhancing Situation Table development in the Northwest region
 - Ensuring Situation Tables are adequately supported
 - Generic PowerPoint to support Outreach and Engagement
 - Sharing of Best Practices
 - Training opportunities
- Transportation Responsibilities to Schedule 1 Psychiatric facilities from Rural Communities
- Supporting Situation Table Development in Northwestern Ontario
 - Coordinating training opportunities
 - Distribution of Situation Table resource materials
- Continuing to build partnerships with Situation Tables
- Truancy, persistent absenteeism in the Northwest (understanding underlying factors that lead to this)
- Identifying Emerging Issues and Trends in the Northwest region based on Risk-Driven Tracking Database Reports

Emerging Priorities:

- Use a Health Equity Lens
 - Continue to build trusting relationships with service providers in the District and ensure they feel seen, heard and understood
- Advocacy at the local and provincial level
 - Unified messaging on behalf of the COR
- Formalize partnerships with local/regional planning tables (e.g. Mental Health and Addictions Networks, etc.)
 - Sharing Risk-Driven Tracking Database data with community planning tables
 - “Hub and spoke” model
 - Strengthen partnerships with the District of Thunder Bay
- Addressing situations that are not Acutely Elevated Risk (complex, chronic risk) that require a cross-sectoral approach but are not appropriate for the Situation Table as they do not meet criteria for AER

Emerging Issues:

Supportive Housing for Individuals Involved with the Criminal Justice System

Human Trafficking and Gang Activity

- Increase in human trafficking
- Escalating gang activity in the city and region
- Rural-Urban migration (e.g. youth seeking educational opportunities in City, Ring of Fire will make communities more accessible, Kenora and Thunder Bay are service hubs for the Northwest)

Alcohol and Drug-Use

- Greater need for withdrawal management programs/services in the Northwest and medical withdrawal management in the Northwest region
- Long-term addictions support and proper assessments

Collaborative Crisis Response Models

- Supporting Joint-Mobile Crisis Response Model in City of Thunder Bay
- Exploring models of crisis services delivery for the Northwest region and feasibility of JMCR Teams in the region



How We Do Our Work

What should we KEEP doing?

- Supporting the Coordinator position and ongoing recruitment of regional community mobilizers
- Ongoing communication (e.g. weekly updates)
- Engagement with tables in the region and building partnerships with service providers outside of the City of Thunder Bay
- Using a regional lens and continuing, while acknowledging and respecting differences across locales
- Building COR/Situation Tables work into agencies to ensure continuity and sustainability
- In-person meeting opportunities for the COR
- Celebrating success and sharing success stories



What do we need to START doing?

- Using an equity lens
- Sharing Risk-Driven Tracking database reports highlighting what is changing across the region (e.g. similar to data MCSCS shared during Priority-Setting Day)
- More education about this project to ministries so they see the importance of the COR
- Hearing and responding to emergent issues in the District of Thunder Bay
- Being focused and deliberate with issues that are addressed (e.g. issues related to human services and justice)
- Ongoing membership recruitment to engage partners who are currently missing (e.g. EMS)
- Increasing media-presence
- Exploring consent-based hub models to address non-AER referrals
- Making COR mandate clear
- Succession planning (e.g. archiving of COR materials, minutes, successes, etc.)
- Asset mapping to identify duplication in services

What do we need to STOP doing?

- Focusing solely on the city and Thunder Bay and not making a distinction between City vs District
- Being diffuse (recognize the COR does not have capacity to address all issues and focus on key priority issues)

Limitations and Opportunities

Theme	What is beyond the COR's scope/capacity to do? (Limitations)	How can we leverage other partners/networks to accomplish things we do not have capacity to address? (Opportunities)
Systemic Change and Advocacy	<p>We cannot change or write provincial and federal policies/legislation</p> <p>We do not have the capacity to address all emerging local issues raised to the COR</p>	<p>We can write position papers on policies/legislation for submission</p> <p>We can note emerging issues and make introductions/become aware of planning tables in the Northwest that support advocacy and provide them with information (e.g. Issues Management Briefings) to support their advocacy efforts (ie. Business Improvement Associations, Family Networks, Parent Councils, etc.)</p> <p>We can formalize partnerships with local planning tables (e.g. Community Safety and Well-Being Planning Tables, Thunder Bay Drug Strategy, Crime Prevention Council, Mental Health and Addictions Networks, etc.)</p> <p>We can inform the Provincial HSJCC about emergent trends/issues in the Northwest region</p>
Sustainability and Continuity	<p>We have limited internal resources (ie. 1 Coordinator position to support the Northwest region)</p>	<p>We have 1 position that can supervise students/positions.</p> <p>We can form a partnership with Lakehead University Departments of Health Sciences, Psychology and Social Work to leverage undergraduate and graduate level students to support research projects and data analysis.</p> <p>We can apply to the Northern Ontario Internship Program and other grant programs.</p>
Funding	<p>We do not have the capacity/authority to fund initiatives or allocate funding resources.</p> <p>The project does not currently have a funding source that adequately covers all costs associated with the project.</p>	<p>We can invite and engage ministries/funders in COR discussions and meetings</p> <p>We can support grant applications in alignment with COR priorities , and provide/or provide Data to support proposals/grant applications</p> <p>We can apply for grants and continue to seek monetary and in-kind contributions from participating partner agencies</p>

Takeaways & Next Steps

In consultation with the facilitator, Ian McCormack (COMPASS Leadership) of the Priority-Setting Day, several **key takeaways** were noted:

- ✓ There was strong alignment amongst participants endorsing the work and direction of the COR and an interesting and needed balance between strategic and tactical thinking.
- ✓ There was a feeling of “let’s do what we do best” present during the day.
- ✓ There appeared to be an understanding of the importance of the COR and partner organizations about not taking on more than we can collectively deliver, not being too diffuse and continuing to acknowledge limitations of the COR.
- ✓ There was a sense of pride among members about what the COR has accomplished in the past few years and continued engagement.
- ✓ There was a theme of being strategic and more active in an advocacy and communications role together with community partners & local planning tables, on the work of the COR, the people it serves and the needs and issues in our communities, and how the COR is working to meet them.

Based on the responses to the questions posed and key takeaways, four priorities areas for the COR are presented below:

- Continue to build a strong and sustainable Network
- Support the development and enhancement of Situation Tables in the Northwest region
- Continue to maintain open lines of communication, participate in knowledge exchange opportunities and raise awareness about COR/Situation Tables
- Engage the Network in Issues Management and address emergent issues in the Northwest region

The information included in this report and priority focus areas will be used to inform the 2019 – 2021 Northwest Regional Centre of Responsibility (COR) Work Plan. This report and accompanying committee Work Plan will be shared with COR members during the May 2019 COR meeting.