

“The Health Bus” A Saskatoon Mobile Primary Health Centre ... An Agency Fact Sheet

VISION

Creation of a Mobile Primary Health Centre as a venue to generate health equity and close the disparity gap of those who are geographically, socially, economically and/or culturally isolated.

PURPOSE

To provide high quality primary health care to the public in the communities of Saskatoon.

- The Health Bus is an inter-professional Mobile Primary Health Centre based on partnerships including M.D. Ambulance, CUMFI, First Nations agencies, Saskatoon Health Region (SHR) and the Ministry of Health.
- Mobile Primary Health Care delivery aligns with SHR’s Strategic Plan 2007 – 2010, the 2004 SHR Health Status Report and the “Health Disparity by Neighbourhood Income” publication (Canadian Journal of Public Health, 2006).
- The Emergency Medical Services Chiefs of Canada (EMSCC) developed the White Paper which endorses “The future of EMS in Canada is providing mobile primary health care as defined by the needs of each community”.
<http://2008.emscc.gov.bc.ca/downloads/whitePaper.pdf>
- The Health Bus is innovative and a complementary community treatment venue for those in need of resources closer to home. The Bus supports many populations, including First Nations, Métis, children, the elderly, immigrants, refugees and those with chronic diseases.

WHO ARE WE?

- Team of healthcare professionals with a focus on community care to include a paramedic and nurse practitioner.
 - Establish links with social agencies and programs
 - Ability to work with citizens and communities to reach the optimal level of wellness.
 - Ability to work in a strength-based model with community members
 - Committed to maintaining and promoting health, wellness and injury prevention
 - Ability to serve as an advocate, facilitator, liaison and resource coordinator.
 - Able to identify challenges that may interfere with the development of a better, more integrated health care system.

WHAT DO WE DO?

- Health Promotion
- Education
- Treatment
- Follow-up Care
- Referral

PILLARS OF PRIMARY HEALTH

- Working in Teams
- Providing Information
- Enhancing Access
- Supporting Healthy Living
- Community Consultation and Participation

For more information visit the primary health website: www.primaryhealthcare.ca

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Stories from "The Health Bus"



The . . . client was a 94 [year old] male, sharp as could be, curious about the Bus. Stopped by to check us out. We engaged in conversation, took some vitals . . . [he] did have an irregular heart beat. We did a 12 lead ECG and found A-fib and a RBB. He does not take any meds and was asymptomatic. We are uncertain if this is a new onset. We made arrangements for a follow up at the . . . clinic for tomorrow at 9:30 am. We gave him a copy of our 12 lead to present to [the named doctor]. The Bus is working !!!!



. . . [a] regular homeless fellow . . . came in for a dressing change on his leg for an injury that he has had for a month. It is getting worse, not better. He had been seen at the [named clinic] for a dressing change a week ago and was told he needed antibiotics. He told them no. Today I told him the same the same thing and he said he would take them. So the NP wrote him a script, [and provided education] . . . I think that this proves that we are gaining trust in the community, even if it is just one person at a time.



Tonight we had to contact Mobile Crisis for a young boy that we saw standing outside on the sidewalk looking very cold. We told him to come in and warm up and he told us his story. He had run away from school today due to some issues there and was afraid to go back to the group home he lives in, he states his Dad doesn't want him, his Mom doesn't want him and he is having a hard time with things. We made him some hot chocolate, dried his socks and shoes, gave him a toque and mitts and a couple of granola bars as he said he had nothing to eat all day. He had missed his evening meds. This boy is 13 years old. Knowing we could not just send him on his way he agreed to have mobile crisis come and pick him up. They would be taking him home we believe.



Tonight's story comes from a client who saw us a while ago and returned to update us. . . She arrived very pale and in distress. She was directed to the ER for labs and ultrasound. She returned wanting to personally thank those for the care she received. I am only able to relay the thanks. As it turned out they found 2 tumours, one on each kidney less than a centimetre in diameter. She will be going for a CT and surgery in Dec to determine if there is any cancer. She has not told any family or friends until she knows the results. A young mother with children. employed in a low paying occupation and stress leaking out. Thanks to . . . [the named RN(NP) and Paramedic] for your care.



. . . the third was a lady who came by to have her BP taken as she has some problems with it. She says it is always high at the Drs office as she gets anxious. It was high for us as well and we prompted her to make sure she took it again at home to see if it came down. [The staff] also realized she had an irregular heartbeat and put her on the monitor. She was in A-fib but stated she felt fine. She has a regular Drs appt soon so she was happy to take the ECG strip to take to her appt and tell the Dr what we had found. She also called back twice during the evening to tell us her meds and to reassure us she had taken her BP at home and it was fine then.

