

Aboriginal Child Health Program

Stollery Children's Hospital, Edmonton, Alberta

Background

The Aboriginal Child Health Program:

- Provides support to First Nations, Inuit and Metis families from Alberta, BC, Manitoba, Yukon, NWT, and Nunanvut
- Originated through a partnership between Capital Health and Treaty 8 North Peace Tribal Council
 - Alberta Health and Wellness funded a support worker
- Added the full time position of an Aboriginal Child Health Coordinator

Overview

Program Planning:

- Evaluation to determine satisfaction of Aboriginal parents/caregivers as well as healthcare staff with existing services provided to Aboriginal children.
 - Findings:
 - ❖ Parent/caregivers:
 - ❖ More information about hospital function and role of staff,
 - ❖ More education around Aboriginal culture for healthcare staff
 - ❖ Increase amount of Aboriginal art and activates
 - ❖ Introduce culturally sensitive printed material
 - ❖ Assistance from a person of the same culture to understand the hospital environment

Overview

Program Planning:

- Findings:
 - ❖ Staff (Physicians, Residents, Nurse, OT, PT , Dietician, Psychologist etc):
 - ❖ Ongoing education
 - ❖ Improved access to cultural liaison staff

Program Delivery:

- Staff interact with individuals and groups in building relationships
- Assisting with needs identification and problem resolution

Program Goals

- Increase Knowledge of Aboriginal Community Resources
- Experiences of families articulated to health care providers
- Increase knowledge of parenting issues in the Aboriginal community
- Improved relationships between various health stakeholders providing services to Aboriginal children

Service and Activities

- Support children who are inpatients at the Stollery Children's Hospital
 - In 2006/07 there were 685 families, 900 hrs of direct care
 - Use of the Medicine Wheel
 - Connections to ceremonies and elders
- Outreach and Telehealth Services
- Physician and Staff Education and Awareness
- Dissemination of Information

Service and Activities

- Program Development
 - Meeting new families
 - Orientation to the Stollery
 - Individual family support (ceremonies, work with elders)
 - Group activities (Tea and Bannock)
 - Discharge Planning and Transition home

New Initiatives

- Development of simple Cree language reference for staff and physicians to assist in connecting with families in their language
- Elders teaching traditional parenting skills
- Partnership with Alberta Native Friendship Centres Association to produce culturally relevant articles (baby blankets, moccasins, mossbags)
- Access community based programs for alcohol or substance awareness and treatment

Implications for Policy

- Addressing gaps in service delivery
- Orientation for new staff regarding cultural awareness
- Adapting university level health services curricula to include Aboriginal cultural awareness
- Working with local authorities regarding determinants of health

THANK YOU