

Excellent health and care for everyone,
everywhere, every time.



August 29, 2017

Kevin Lorette
Capital Regional District
General Manager
Planning and Protective Services

Dear Kevin,

Thank you and Michael for meeting with me on June 26 2017 regarding the development of a Community Health Network (CHN) and the Southern Gulf Islands (SGI's).

As discussed, a CHN is a community based network of multiple community stakeholders from across sectors working together to improve community health and wellness by addressing social determinants of health and modifiable risk factors. CHNs use principles of collective impact; whereby partners identify shared goals, and work to strategically align resources in order to make progress toward those goals more quickly and efficiently. It is an upstream population based prevention initiative that does not provide health care programming or direct services for the community. It is focused on supporting community action on the social determinants of health; action is focused on issues that are distinct from health services delivery. The CHN is not a replacement for non-profit organizations or existing services in community.

The CHN can collaborate to write grants and secure funding based on the challenges, needs and identified priorities in the community. It acts as the umbrella under which every partner at the table has an equal voice and vote; it is through building trust and confidence that the Network grows, strengthens and works to improve the determinants of health for the community's population. I have attached a CHN backgrounder for additional information. There are currently six CHN's established on Vancouver Island; Mount Waddington, Sooke, Cowichan, Alberni/Clayoquot, Oceanside, Strathcona.

Representatives from the Southern Gulf Islands approached Island Health in 2016 to see if conversations could be started on forming a CHN. Island Health sees the value in partnering to improve health in the community by addressing the social determinants of health. Over the past year, Island Health has been putting forward in-kind support to help foster the process and conversation of getting a health network started in this area;

We have been engaging with the SGI to see if there is a collective interest in pursuing a SGI CHN. To date community forums have been held on Salt Spring, Pender, Saturna and Mayne Islands with

Integrated Primary and Community care

Mailing address: 3138-63 Gorge Road East | Victoria BC Canada
V9A 1L2

Tel: 778 678 0776
Michelle.ham@viha.ca

excellent participation from various stakeholders including non-profit organizations, volunteers, community members, School District # 64, Island Trust, CRD, and a multitude of other community organizations. They have expressed an interest in the development of a CHN and look forward to a larger gathering of all Island representatives and stakeholders to be held on the Peninsula in the Fall of 2017. At this point Galiano Island has chosen not to participate but have an open invitation join the discussion at anytime should they choose. The W'SANEC First Nations will also be consulted and invited to participate in this discussion.

As a result of these discussions the question of should a CHN be limited to the SGI's or should this umbrella also extend to include the Saanich Peninsula emerged and needs further discussion. Please let us know what your thoughts are on this. Island Health has provided some funding to support the coordination of the CHN. Island Health is currently in discussion around what funding can be generated to support the CHN. For a CHN to succeed, shared leadership from multiple community partners across sectors is essential. Island Health would be one of many partners at the table to provide their perspective, to help facilitate the process and for ongoing support of the Network. No one organization can do this alone; it is best achieved in collaboration. Partnership from the Capital Regional District is needed to provide leadership, any in kind or financial support to the process, contract coordinators and fulfil the role of the fiduciary body. Can there be this level of support provided by the CRD? If not, what level of support and commitment can be provided?

I look forward to hearing back from you. Please feel free to contact me with any additional questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Michelle

Michelle Ham RN MPA © Project Manager, Integrated Primary and Community Care
Saanich Peninsula and the Gulf Islands
Cell 778 678 0776 michelle.ham@viha.ca