



Program Update: What We've Done So Far

The Family Treatment Program is entering its third year of operations. We have a mission of working together with communities to understand the family treatment needs within the community, explore alternatives and solutions, and inform the path forward for family healing and wellness. The goals of the Family Treatment Program are static and evolve as the needs of the communities change. The overarching goal of the program is to decrease the impact that substance abuse is having on families as a whole and to aid in minimizing child welfare involvement in the communities by reason of parental substance abuse. With this mission and these goals in mind, the following is a breakdown of some of the activities performed by the Family Treatment Program in collaboration with the communities since the program launch:

- Preliminary SWOT Analyses: SWOT stands for Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats. Meetings with leaders in the community of Atikamekwisheng Anishnawbek, Sagamok Anishnawbek, Serpent River First Nation have yielded some promising ideas and initiatives. Further outreach to leadership in Mississauga First Nation, Thessalon First Nation, Garden River First Nation and Batchewana First Nation is underway and ongoing in all communities.
- A literature review in draft: A literature review was conducted examining various operational family treatment models that currently exist throughout North America. The intent of the literature review is to present examples of models that may be feasible in our service area. This document is currently in draft and is estimated to be complete by May 2021.
- Information sessions offered to the communities: a series of addictions related Townhall Tuesdays was offered to community members back in the fall of 2020. The series hosted two speakers, Dr. David Marsh and Ian Robertson, on two separate dates. Both of these individuals are well educated and experienced in the field of addictions and provided a talk on their topic of expertise and allowed for questions from participants. We anticipate offering similar information sessions to the communities in the future.
- Training opportunities for community staff: The Buffalo Riders training through the Thunderbird Foundation was offered to staff in each community back in November 2020. 1-3 staff in each community took part in this training aside from Batchewana First Nation staff who had already undergone this training. The RedPath Addiction Treatment Program training was offered to 12 staff in Serpent River First Nation. All 12 staff successfully completed the program in March of 2021. We look forward to collaborating with other communities to be able to offer more training opportunities.
- Family Treatment site visits: The Family Treatment Coordinator has visited and obtained operational information from the Enaahdig Healing Lodge & Learning Centre, who offer a 4-week Family Treatment Program out of their lodge located in Alban, ON. The Family Treatment Coordinator has also visited Weechi-it-te-win in Fort Frances, ON that hosts a 15-day Outpatient Family Healing Program. Other programs that the Family Treatment Coordinator has explored include Gwekwaadziwin Miikan, a land-based youth mental health and addictions residential treatment program based out of Manitoulin Island, as well as Four Winds Lodge Noojimowigamig who offer individualized residential treatment for addictions including a family component out of their lodge in Minnesota. More site visits are anticipated this year to continue to explore various types of treatment models.

Community collaboration is of utmost importance for the Family Treatment Program. We hope to learn more about what is happening in your community and work with you and your leadership to work towards a common goal of family healing and wellness.