

Department of Children, Seniors and Social Development

Presentation to NLCAHR – Research Exchange
Group on Cost and Value in Healthcare

September 2021

Presentation Outline

- **Departmental Mandate and Objectives**
- **Structure of Department**
- **Branches, Divisions and Mandates**
- **Departmental Priorities**
- **CSSD and links to Improved Health**
- **Research Opportunities**

Overview

- CSSD was formed on August 17, 2016, by combining the former Departments of CYFS and SWSD.
- This move brought together a wide range of professionals and policy practitioners to focus on improving the health, safety, well-being, inclusion and social development of the people in Newfoundland and Labrador.
- Income Support and the Community Sector were added to CSSD's mandate in April, 2021.

Departmental Mandate

To foster social development and diversity, build inclusive communities, and ensure the delivery of critical services to protect children and vulnerable adults. CSSD develops policies, programs and partnerships to promote an inclusive, accessible and socially advanced province that values its children, youth, families, persons with disabilities, seniors and all individuals across the life span.

CSSD Strategic Objectives

1. Meaningful employment
2. Sufficient income
3. Healthy and safe, built and natural environments.
4. Sufficient, safe, culturally appropriate and nutritious food.
5. Safe, stable and affordable housing.
6. Safe environments that foster healthy child and youth development.
7. High-quality, accessible, inclusive, lifelong education and learning opportunities.
8. Affordable and high-quality mental and physical health care interventions, including those focused on prevention and health promotion.
9. Affordable and accessible transportation.
10. Culturally vibrant, inclusive and supportive communities supported by a strong Community Sector.

Structure of the Department

Prevention and Early Intervention

Policy and Programs

Child and Youth Services

Corporate Services and Performance Improvement

Branches

Prevention and Early Intervention

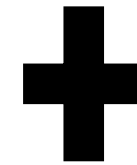
Commitment to Prevention and Well-Being

- Based on the Social Determinants of health
- Well-being is a whole of Government priority and is a focus across departments as well as in the health and community based sectors
- CSSD's role is to ensure a coordinated, holistic government-wide approach to social development that includes working closely with community partners

CSSD Prevention Role

Well-Being
Framework

Poverty
Reduction
Strategy



Prevention and
Early Intervention
Action Plan



Poverty Reduction and Well Being Mandate

Poverty Reduction Division leads a horizontal, government-wide approach to preventing, reducing and alleviating poverty, with a key focus on children, youth and their families.

- Interdepartmental collaboration and community partnership, with a focus on Poverty Reduction across the lifecycle is critical. Poverty Reduction is guided by the social determinants of health.
- The connection between poverty reduction and optimal well-being is recognized, with a core belief that **everyone deserves a good life with opportunities to thrive.**

Poverty Reduction & Community Sector Priorities

- Renewed Poverty Reduction Strategy/Outcomes for Children and Youth
- Consider Measures to Address Food Insecurity & Housing
- Exploring Basic Income with Community Partners and other Departments
- Supporting the Community Sector / Work Plan

Income Support Program Mandate

- Provides supports and services to eligible individuals in the province without financial resources to meet basic daily living expenses
- Supports well-being by providing immediate financial needs, and promotes self-reliance by supporting labour market participation

Income Support Program Structure

- Provincial Policy and Program Oversight
- Regional Service Delivery System
- Approximately 200 staff in 16 locations throughout the province
- Provides income support to approx. 20K households
- 26 Social Workers provincially supporting clients with complex needs to access services, building community capacity

Income Support Priorities

- Income Support Program Review
- Bus Pass pilot
- Pilot to Identify and Remove Barriers to Employment
- Impact of Canada Recovery Benefits

Branches

Policy and Programs

Disability Policy Office Mandate

The Disability Policy office (DPO) provides support to all government departments and agencies in advancing the inclusion of persons with disabilities. The Office:

- Advises on barrier free policy, legislation and access to services and opportunities;
- Engages expertise of persons with disabilities to identify, reduce and prevent barriers; and
- Raises awareness of disability, inclusion and accessibility.

DPO Priorities

- Accessibility Legislation
- Disability Advocate
- Collaboration to advance Supported Decision Making
- Works with community organizations, businesses and other government departments to break down barriers in buildings, attitudes and policies

Divisional Mandate – Seniors and Aging

- The Seniors and Aging Division provides a seniors' lens and population aging lens on legislation, policies, and programs.
- Legislated authority under the **Adult Protection Act**: To protect adults who are at risk of abuse and neglect, and who do not understand or appreciate that risk.

Seniors and Aging Priorities

- Adult Protection Legislation
- ARCNL Research
- NLCAHR Research on Assessing Decision Making Capacity
- Promote Age Friendly Communities
- Grant Programs (Age-Friendly Communities & Community Transportation, Seniors' Social Inclusion)
- Seniors of Distinction Awards
- FPT Seniors Forum
- Provincial Advisory Council on Aging and Seniors
- Support for Information and Referral Services with SeniorsNL
- Interdepartmental working group on changing demographics (CSSD and HCS co-lead)
- Population Aging Working Group (Health Accord NL)

Child Protection & Youth Mandates

Child Protection and Youth Services:

- Programs are established to ensure the safety and well-being of children and youth in need of protective intervention through child protection, kinship services or youth services under the **Children, Youth and Families Act**.

Community Youth Corrections:

- Provides services to youth who come into conflict with the law between their 12th and 18th birthdays under the **Youth Criminal Justice Act** (Canada) and the **Young Person's Offences Act** (Newfoundland and Labrador).

Incare and Adoptions Mandates

Children and Youth In Care & Foster Care Placements:

- These programs are responsible to establish the policies and programs that support children and youth in out of home care under the **Children, Youth and Families Act**.

Adoption:

- The adoption program provides new and permanent family ties through adoption, while giving paramount consideration to the best interest of the child.
- Adoption in this province is governed by the **Adoption Act, 2013**.

Child Welfare Priorities

- Improved Outcomes for Indigenous Children and Youth
- Effective Wrap Around Services/Reduction in Children in Care
- Permanency for Children and Youth
- Youth Transitions
- Review the System of Children in Care
- SDM Model and Quality Child Welfare Practice

Branches

Child and Youth Services

Child and Youth Services Mandate

The CYS Branch is responsible for regional operations which includes the delivery of the Protective Intervention, In Care, Adoptions, Youth Services, Kinship and Community Youth Corrections programs consistent with the policies and procedures established in the Policy and Programs Branch of CSSD.

Regional Operations Structure

Regional Operations

Regional
Director
Metro

Regional
Director
Central
West

Regional
Director
Labrador

Manager
Service
Delivery
and
Regional
Operations

- 3 Regions (Metro, Central West, Labrador)
- 44 Regional Office Locations
 - Metro (7 Offices)
 - Central West (27 Offices)
 - Labrador (10 Offices)
- 13 Zones (12 Zone Managers)
- 58 Clinical Program Supervisors
- Approximately 550 frontline positions
 - (over 300 SWs, SWAs, BMS, Admin Support, etc.)

Child and Youth Services Priorities

- Positive Outcomes for Children, Youth and Families
- Quality Delivery of Services
- Community Engagement
- Adequate Staffing Levels with Training and Support

Branches

Corporate and Performance Improvement

Finance Mandate

- Financial reporting and analysis
- Budget preparation and monitoring
- General operations including purchasing and accommodations
- Client financial services payment processing
- Occupational health and safety
- Financial and analysis support to all other divisions within the Department

Policy Planning and Info Mtg Mandate

- Policy development and analysis
- Strategic planning
- Accountability requirements
- Development, implementation, and maintenance of information management protection policies and procedures

Quality Management Mandate

Quality Management

Program Evaluation

Data Analysis

Survey Design and Administration

Compliance Monitoring

Case Readings

Quality Indicators

CI/Deaths

Supervisor Case Review

ISM Reporting

AG Report Monitoring

Office of the Child and Youth Advocate

Training & Development Unit

Delivery of orientation and program training modules

Supervisory Training

Additional training: NCIHD, Family Violence, Child Development, Documentation

Curriculum development

Practice Consultation

APT Committee

Link to Improved Health

- Prevention and Early Intervention
- Poverty Reduction and Wellbeing, Income Support
- Preserving Culture
- Strong Community Sector
- Permanency
- Youth Transitions
- Aging in Place/Age Friendly Communities
- Least Intrusive Approach to Adults with Diminished Capacity
- Accessibility

Current Research with NLCAHR

- Assessing Decision Making Capacity (Rapid Evidence)
- Best and Promising Models for Prevention and Early Intervention
- Service Models to Support Families (snapshot)
- Virtual Family Support Services (snapshot)

Research Opportunities

- Experience of working from home for persons with disabilities during pandemic
- Identification of barriers in accessing medical services for persons with disabilities;
- Explore whether there is a lack of resources for families who have children with disabilities.
- How to include seniors who do not or cannot bridge the digital divide
- Viability of a Universal Basic Income in Newfoundland and Labrador
- Income adequacy particularly, income support benefits
- Availability of support systems, including formal and natural
- Engagement in employment and education
- Income stability and security, role of basic income and other benefits
- Best practices in supportive housing models and intensive wrap around supports as potential interventions to prevent admissions of children into care

Questions

