

Cultural Agility, Safety and Humility: Committing to Change for Indigenous Youth and Families in Integrated Youth Services

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Introduction

As a provincial network of Integrated Youth Services (IYS) across the province of British Columbia (BC), Canada, Foundry has made significant commitments to creating Cultural Agility, Safety and Humility (CASH) as a standard of care for service delivery within IYS at Foundry centres, both virtually and in-person. The creation of Canada through the forced occupation and colonization of Indigenous Peoples continues to have lasting impacts on the wellness of Indigenous young people, families/caregivers and communities. This impact has been seen and felt by Indigenous people for generations who, through a plenitude of research and reports, have clearly articulated the ways in which healthcare systems need to change to redress historic wrongs and create meaningful change today.

Objectives

To share learnings, tools and recommendations that highlight the importance of CASH in IYS for Indigenous young people and families/caregivers in BC. To demonstrate the imperative of both leader endorsement and appropriate resourcing to realizing CASH in workplace and organizational culture that supports knowledge sharing and practice changes across the network of IYS centres and virtual spaces.

Approach/Methods

Drawing from work and activities that began in 2019, we will share our journey in developing a CASH Framework and Action Plan. Alongside this we will offer knowledge and understanding towards the importance of the philosophy and practice of Two-Eyed Seeing, and the ways in which Indigenous knowledges and practice can come alongside Western knowledges and practice in creating safer and more inclusive systems of care. We will provide practical and achievable recommendations for actions that other health systems and organizations can implement to incorporate CASH principles in their own work with youth and families to support wellness.

Results/Policy Implications

By acknowledging the significant harm that was done to Indigenous Peoples through contact and colonization we create a space where we can begin to both identify the impact this has on health and create systemic change within our healthcare systems. The acts and experiences of colonization, oppression and other tools of genocide are well documented in the history of Canada's development. In committing to understand this history and

current impacts experienced in accessing care, we are better positioned to be more intentional and humble allies in supporting Indigenous youth, families/caregivers and communities in BC.

Conclusion

Foundry is uniquely positioned as a leader in IYS in Canada to help inform the ways in which policy, practice and integration of CASH principles and practice can be of direct benefit to Indigenous youth and families accessing Foundry services. Through intentional, collaborative and meaningful commitments and actions we are actively working to un/learn how systems of care can both harm and benefit Indigenous Peoples, and our responsibilities in this process.



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