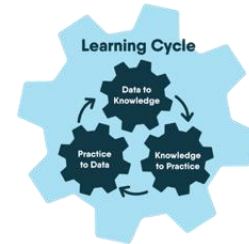


Foundry Learning Health System Next steps for our Learning Community

January 2025

What is a Learning Health System?

A learning health system (LHS) describes an approach where everyone in a health care setting works together on the shared goal of continually innovating and improving care and services. In learning cycles, they use data from daily practice to identify key areas for improvement and generate new insights, which then inform timely changes that enhance the overall quality of services.



At Foundry, we have always strived to learn and evolve, to improve outcomes and increase impact for youth and families/caregivers. We are now enhancing our learning community by formally using an LHS framework to coordinate our improvement efforts. This approach will help us intentionally align engagement, data and research with the knowledge and experiences of our network. By using an LHS framework, we will make efficient and effective improvements, spread innovation across our network and support each centre to be the best it can be. Building on the collective wisdom of our network, we will make strategic improvements to better support youth and families/caregivers across British Columbia.

Why is it important?

Building an LHS across the Foundry network is important for the following reasons:

1. Ensures continuous improvement in the quality of Foundry services;
2. Maintains consistency across centres;
3. Adapts to the changing needs of youth, families/caregivers and staff;
4. Provides a way to move innovations forward; and
5. Supports our ultimate goal of empowering youth to live their best life.

Why now?

Foundry has had a strong culture of learning and adaptability since our earliest days. With 17 centres open plus our provincial virtual service, and 18 more centres in development, our collective knowledge could help to further evolve Foundry's model and improve services. Foundry Central Office (FCO) has received feedback that we need to engage our network more and optimize their shared knowledge and experience. We also want to better use the data that we collect and the research findings of our Integrated Youth Services (IYS) partners to move knowledge into practice faster. The Foundry LHS establishes an approach to bring us together in a coordinated, integrated and sustainable way to address improvement needs.

What is the vision for our LHS?

Our vision is that ongoing learning across our centres leads to providing the highest quality, most consistent experiences possible for youth and families/caregivers in BC. Through continuous learning and growth, solutions can be implemented that improve the quality of services and address health inequities across our network.

Where are we in this initiative?

The Foundry LHS will have positive network-wide impact as we move from our planning and pilot phase to implementation in 2025 and beyond. Planning has involved working to understand how to evolve our learning community and organize the teams at FCO to support centres in their improvement efforts. We have supported centres with small changes to the Youth Peer Support program through a pilot project at two centres that was completed in October 2024. Lessons learned from this pilot will shape how we support centres with improvement efforts through the Foundry LHS.

How will the Foundry LHS work?

The Foundry LHS is a partnership between FCO teams, centre staff, our Communities of Practice, youth and families/caregivers. Together, we are the learning health system. We will work together to identify and address areas for improvement across our network, through the following process:

1. To identify potential network-wide improvement efforts, we will capture emerging issues in conversations with centres and through engagement with youth and family/caregivers, formal data analysis, evaluation activities and requests from our network.
2. The LHS team will consult with centre staff, young people and families/caregivers, and FCO leaders to strengthen the relevance of each proposed network-wide improvement effort.
3. The director team at FCO will make decisions on undertaking the network-wide improvement efforts.
4. For each improvement effort, FCO teams work as part of our learning community that listens and gathers information from our communities of interest, including Communities of Practice, Working Groups, youth, families/caregivers, centre staff and community partners.
5. FCO teams will review the newly generated data and knowledge and support system-level improvement across the Foundry network.
6. Over time, each centre works on each network-wide improvement effort by focusing on addressing their centre's specific challenges. This will be done with direct support from FCO.
7. Improvements at centres are learnings for the whole network, enabling us to learn and evolve.

What can you expect in the upcoming months?

FCO is establishing an intake process for potential network-wide improvement efforts. Importantly, centre staff, youth and families/caregivers, and FCO leaders will be formally and regularly consulted for their advice to shape these improvement efforts. As we enter the implementation phase, the wider network will become more involved and will be regularly updated on the ongoing activities.

Who will be involved?

- Centre staff and community partners who experience, identify and address potential improvements;
- Youth and families/caregivers who give feedback, identify challenges and collaborate to improve the services based on their experiences; and
- FCO staff who support all aspects of the Foundry LHS, both at the network-wide and individual centre levels within their specialized roles through the learning cycles.

Who can you contact with questions?

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