



COMMUNITY UPDATE REPORT

JUNE 2021



UPDATES



<https://www.facebook.com/BoyleMcCauleyHealthCentre.BMHC/photos/pcb.4087053394691257/4087053308024599/>

Over a year later, and we still find ourselves significantly impacted by COVID-19. Organizations are still waiting for the day they can return to “normal”; peoples’ worlds are still turned upside down. The work that homeless-serving organizations have done to support people experiencing lack of housing is nothing short of remarkable. For instance, since the onset of the pandemic in March 2020, 2029 people have been successfully housed through Housing First and related programs (Homeward Trust Edmonton, 2021), which is incredible!

People have had to really work hard and shift gears on the turn of dime with little to no road map about how to provide services in a global pandemic and these efforts need to be acknowledged. Some of the key shifts and trends that have impacted the work of Network partners are noted here. It is important to also point to the fact that the sector landscape is continually evolving and changing. By the time you read this report, things may have changed. We have done our best to be as up to the minute as possible but want to acknowledge that this is not always possible in such a rapidly changing milieu.

COVID-19 and COVID-19 Vaccinations

As more and more Albertans are vaccinated, we can begin to see the end of lockdowns in sight and breathe a collective sigh of relief. The Boyle McCauley Health Centre (BMHC) has been providing COVID-19 vaccinations for inner-city, vulnerable clients who qualify on a walk-in basis since March 29, 2021. They have also been taking the vaccinations to alternative locations using their Mobile Health Clinic (pictured here). As of the end of May 2021, BMHC had vaccinated 1595 people ensuring protection for some of the most vulnerable Edmontonians. Here is a link to a [CTV News Story](#) about the Mobile Health Clinic.

Efforts like these are likely just a few of the reasons the BMHC received the 2020 Alberta Family Doctors’ Medical Home of the Year award. Congratulations to the team at BMHC for this amazing award!

Shelter Spaces Available

March 2021: 1203
May 19, 2021: 835

of People Experiencing Homelessness

May 19, 2021: 2,109

Shelter + Housing Updates**Tipinawâw: Edmonton Convention Centre**

The Edmonton Convention Centre was opened as a shelter (Tipinawâw) on October 30, 2020 and closed April 30, 2021. This 24/7 shelter, operated collaboratively by Bissell Centre, Bent Arrow Traditional Healing Society, Mustard Seed and Boyle Street Community Services, sheltered up to 300 people per night, and was generally full to capacity for the time that it was functional. Tipinawâw, in addition to being a shelter, had health services, mental health services, supervised consumption services, recreation and cultural supports on site. Tipinawâw was clearly a massive undertaking for the organizations that were involved.

Other Shelter Updates**Mustard Seed Shelters:**

The CESSCO shelter, operated on the south side by the Mustard Seed opened November 2, 2020 and closed at the end of March 2021. CESSCO had 120 beds and they were generally over capacity.

Four new, smaller shelters have recently been opened on the south side by Mustard Seed:

- Knox Evangelical Church - opened April 2021 (26 spaces)
- The Moravian Church - opened January 2021 - women only (19 spaces)
- Strathcona Baptist Church - opened April 2021 (29 spaces)
- Trinity Lutheran Church - opened February 2021 (36 spaces)

Hope Mission Shelters

In the beginning of May 2021, the Hope Mission ended operations at the Commonwealth Recreation Centre and opened a shelter at Spectrum at Northlands. The new Spectrum shelter will have 150 available spaces (replacing the 150 that were lost at the closure of Commonwealth). The Hope Mission also still has their main building, which has 342 spaces available.

CHANGING THE SHELTER MODEL

Changing the Shelter Model

With the closing of CESSCO and Tipinawâw, the community has lost almost 370 available shelter spaces at a time when the number of people experiencing lack of housing has actually been increasing (HTE, 2021).

More recently, sector leadership has determined that large, centralized shelters do not help with the work of housing people. According to the Mustard Seed Executive Director, “smaller venues with longer operating hours allow social workers to engage with clients and help them find longer-term housing solutions ... shelters can’t continue to be a one-size-fits-all” (Riebe, 2021b). Echoing this sentiment, the Executive Director of Boyle Street Community Services has stated, “large shelters are not conducive to ending homelessness...you can’t build relationships and connect with people” (Riebe, 2021b).

It is also believed that smaller shelters are also more humane than large, often crowded shelters and offer more dignity to people. As well, people will potentially have more time with workers and the longer hours may translate into longer rest. The emerging preference for smaller shelters has led to the decentralization of shelters, and the move towards supporting smaller, scattered sites, such as the four small Church shelters opened by the Mustard Seed on the south side.

Changing the shelter model, however, is not the only piece of the securing housing puzzle. People can have more humane conditions, and more access to housing support workers to help with finding housing; however, without income, housing will not be possible. According to one of our Network members, it has become much harder to get people income support, which has in turn made it harder than ever to get people housed, in spite of the increase in smaller shelters and transitional housing.

HOUSING UPDATES

Sakhita Kikinaw

One exciting advancement in housing is the opening of Sakhita Kikinaw by Boyle Street Community Services. Sakhita Kikinaw is a “flexible housing” model for women+ experiencing a lack of housing. Women+ can stay for as long as needed – anywhere from two months to two years before making the transition to more long-term housing. (Riebe, 2021a; Boyle Street Community Services, 2021).

Supervised Consumption Services

With the current UCP government, the future of Supervised Consumption Services (SCS) in our province is uncertain. At the time of writing this report, the most recent news is that the Safeworks SCS at the Sheldon M. Chumir Health Centre, Calgary’s only SCS, will close as part of a plan to “overhaul” existing harm reduction services. The site is to be replaced by two others in different locations, but details of these sites have not been forthcoming (Smith, 2021b).

Here in Edmonton, the community was left reeling from the news that the Boyle Street SCS would not be re-opening when services returned to Boyle Street after being situated at Tipinawâw (Cook & Smith, 2021; Ramsay, 2021). With the closing of the Boyle Street site, the number of booths available will go from fifteen to nine. Advocates urge that the number of booths should be increasing, not decreasing, especially when taking into consideration the increasing number of opioid poisoning deaths in Alberta more recently (Smith, 2021a; Ramsay, 2021).

Increases in Opioid Poisonings

Related to the closure of the Chumir site in Calgary and the Boyle Street site here in Edmonton is the recent staggering increase in the number of accidental drug poisonings. Alberta Health Services data shows that the number of opioid-related emergencies more than double in Edmonton from May 2020 (108 calls) to May 2021 (248 calls) (Upright, 2021). As well, a University of Alberta study found that fentanyl-related overdose deaths increase by 118.3% during the pandemic (Dion, 2021).

Encampment Responses

With warmer weather ahead, and the loss of 370 shelter spaces in the last few months, there is naturally a concern that a large, organized encampment like the 2020 Camp Pekiweewin will emerge once again. Although camps are not ideal, they emerge as a response to lack of affordable, appropriate housing and/or other barriers for people to access housing. The issue with dismantling camps repeatedly is that people are left with no other option but to set up camp again somewhere else. Not only is this a massive amount of work for everyone involved, but it also makes it very difficult for outreach workers to connect with people to work on housing.

City officials have stated that they will take a more “proactive” approach with camps this year and camps deemed “high-risk” (close to schools, playgrounds and/or buildings and/or where there’s a risk of fire) will be taken down within a week or two (Riebe, 2021b; Bourne, 2021). The Encampment Response Team (ERT) will approach low-risk camps to try and connect occupants to housing.

Membership

Current members

Current members of the Access Network are as follows:

- AHS Intensive Community Transition Team
- Boyle Street Community Services
- George Spady Society
- AHS Community Paramedic Program
- Women’s Emergency Accommodation Centre
- Alberta Supports
- City of Edmonton Peace Officers
- Boyle McCauley Health Centre
- REACH Edmonton 24/7 Connector
- Hope Mission
- 24/7 Crisis Diversion
- AHS Home Care – Adult Services
- Edmonton Police Service – Human-Centered Engagement Liaison Program Model (HELP)
- Edmonton Police Service – Warrant Apprehension Diversion Unit (WADU)
- Edmonton Public Library – Outreach Services
- The Bissell Centre
- AHS Disability Services

ACCESS NETWORK ANNUAL REFLECTION

New members

Since our last report, we have had a number of new members join the Network: we now have representation from the CHEW Project, YOUNCAN Youth Services and the Alberta Health Services STI Clinic and Outreach Team.

The CHEW Project supports 2SLGBTQ+ youth with information, support (emotional, mental health, cultural), basic needs, referrals and advocacy. The OUTpost is CHEW's safe space for youth who need a place to rest, recharge and connect.

YOUNCAN's Relentless Outreach Worker Program reach out to and build long-standing relationships with youth in the city who require some support to be successful.

It has been a little over a year of COVID-19 and the Access Network started meeting virtually and bi-weekly as opposed to monthly. We thought we would take some time to reflect on how the year has gone for people. We took some time in our mid-April meeting to speak to the members present about what the Network has meant for them over the past year. We recorded the discussion and generated this Word Cloud (also seen on the front cover of this report) from the transcript. We believe the obvious focus on people, meeting, sharing, work and support, validate that what we are doing is having the results we had hoped for!

The Impacts of COVID-19

The first question we asked our members was "how has COVID-19 impacted your work?" Here are some of their responses.

COVID hasn't changed my work ... nothing's changed. I've had 19 days off this year, and nothing has changed. Actually, the work's increased because there are more people in need now. So, you would think a lot of people's lives are slowed right down, mine's picked up a bit during COVID.

Our population doesn't get to live by the same rules as everybody else so therefore we always have something, we always have people to take care of and help, there's always people to elevate and there are more and more people.

I feel like we just picked right up; it's just been so, so busy. We've had to deal with some of the different changes in terms of like everything over the phone now, for instance, but I just sort of feel like we were on the ground running right from the get-go, and it hasn't really let up.

It's just a little bit lonely - we can't drive with our teammates anymore so that's kind of lonely and sad.

Navigating services looks so different especially because as outreach workers we had a lot of ability to be in the community and actually still do our jobs the way that we were before whereas other people in offices can't do that.

We were seeing a lot of people being disconnected from their supports and then trying to work with them kind of from the ground up again, trying to find another support that will meet their needs in the meantime, or just like trying to facilitate things over the phone for clients or computer. I think that's how my practice shifted the most.

Our office is closed, so that's challenging. We're trying to figure out how to meet people and stay within all of the COVID rules, so it's really ... I'm trying to navigate so many different kinds of things, but I'm also so incredibly impressed with how all of the agencies have just kept running with it! I got to come back a year into COVID when everyone had really done amazing work too keep things going and adjust and figure out ways to protect folks and support the most vulnerable folks and I'm just really, really impressed.

A lot of our work is over the phone which is really hard. I'm such a people person it's so much easier for me to build relationships in person. My jokes land flat over Zoom

I really miss being in the community with people. I miss getting close to people who we have the honour of working alongside and just being able to talk to them and hear them without a mask, and smile, and eat. Food is such a big thing with folks: "let's go for lunch and talk about what happened" and we can't do that anymore. I'm getting used to all this stuff.

I feel like along with the impacts of the pandemic and some difficulty accessing services, we are also dealing with going back to a conservative government where we're having so much trouble accessing a lot of services that under the previous provincial government, we were able to access for folks. I got into this field at a time when kind of things got easier and now, we're back to so many funding cuts and Alberta Works is back to not really or not opening files into homelessness - this is how they're phrasing it - and so we're also hitting those barriers. Trying to get people some, what I would consider minimal, supports has been really challenging in last few months especially.

Just knowing that feeling of you're not alone in this work and just knowing that feeling that there's someone who has peoples' backs legitimately is a really comforting feeling.

What the Access Network has meant to members

We also asked members to talk about what the Network has meant to them over the past year or so. Their responses generated a few key themes: “networking, friendship and support”, “creative perspectives and approaches”, and “coordination and transformation”.

Networking, friendship and support

Members spoke about the value of the Network in terms of the friendships they made and the support they experienced through their attendance. Members stated that they look forward to meetings, always feel included and welcomed, and value knowing that they are not alone in the work. Some members see the Network as a larger team that they are part of in addition to their own team. Members also pointed to the fact that being part of the Network also helped them to build further relationships in the community – relationships that are crucial to them being effective in their roles. This was particularly important for newer workers. Finally, members spoke of the emotional support aspect of the Network. With the increase in overdoses, many workers have been experiencing more loss than usual. The Network has been a place where grief and loss can be processed collectively, and community members' lives can be honoured.

Creative perspectives and approaches

One of the things that the Network members appreciate about the Network is that there are a number of different educational backgrounds represented, including social work, nursing, police, etc. and also people who have learned through experience. The diversity in backgrounds, perspectives and approaches contributes to the group's ability to generate creative solutions for community members with complex problems. Additionally, information sharing among partners and being exposed to different perspectives provides opportunities for reflection on members' own practices and approaches and generates ideas about how these practices might evolve.

Something that is really important to me is being able to elevate folks who are so oppressed by the systems and talk about their capacity and resiliency in a way that uplifts them. We can, as a hivemind, understand that these are human beings doing the best they can with incredible resilience. Having people who are all on that same page looking at people, knowing that it's actually an honour to be in their lives, it's actually an honour to be on their side, on their journey, I think is a really uplifting thing because we know in this work you can get beat down. So, it's a really great thing to be able to come to a place like this and we all have the same perspective that we are uplifting people, we are having peoples' backs, we are working alongside some incredible people and it's our honor to be there.

Coordination and transformation

Many members spoke about the importance of coordinating our efforts and how impactful and transformative this can be for the community members we are serving. Consider some of the following comments made:

Something that is really important to me is being able to elevate folks who are so oppressed by the systems and talk about their capacity and resiliency in a way that uplifts them. We can, as a hivemind, understand that these are human beings doing the best they can with incredible resilience. Having people who are all on that same page looking at people, knowing that it's actually an honour to be in their lives, it's actually an honour to be on their side, on their journey, I think is a really uplifting thing because we know in this work you can get beat down. So, it's a really great thing to be able to come to a place like this and we all have the same perspective that we are uplifting people, we are having peoples' backs, we are working alongside some incredible people and it's our honor to be there.

"I would say I like that we're all at the same table so when we have consent, we can talk from our different perspectives and actually create a good wraparound care plan for that person. I've learned from this meeting that we're all seeing a lot of the same people and it's helpful to know what has already been tried so we're not reinventing the wheel and we're not duplicating anything."

"I've been successful because of you guys... it's because we all put our minds together and come up with plans and help each other".

"In order to help one community member, a couple of us got together and planned and it went really well, smooth and easy, there wasn't too much on one person. I feel like it was a shared positive experience, not only for me but I believe also for the community member. That wouldn't have happened without this meeting, we still would be chasing the community member around on the street and it would be way worse than it is now. That's why this meeting is important."

"My colleagues were talking about one of the community members and saying that they couldn't be housed and that it was impossible, so I'm really glad we were able to prove them wrong and that it's been going this well to date. It's not something that our team could have done on our own, for sure. We definitely needed a team approach. I appreciate this community member being brought up at these meetings even before we became involved."

"I can think of so many instances over the last year of people just rallying together for a common outcome, which is a person being safer in our community and us feeling like we could lend some support to them."

"So, really even from a macro level it's a really cool thing to be a part of just to think that the work we're doing today could impact generations from now. Us all being connected and us all talking, the system benefits when we are in silos. That's what the system benefits from, so when we all talk to each other, we share information, we support each other, that is where really radical and really great work can thrive."

ACCESS NETWORK CASE COORDINATION

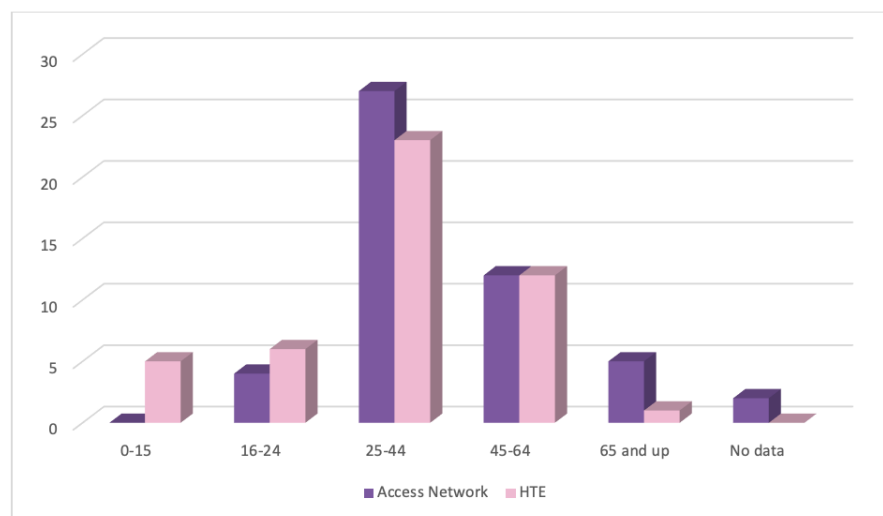
Demographics

Some updated numbers as of the end of May 2021

Total number of community members brought forward to Access Network: 48		
Demographic	Access Network	Homeward Trust By Name List
Identify as female	44%	47%
Identify as male	56%	53%
Identify as a gender other than female or male	0%	1%
Identify as Indigenous	58%	59%
Female + Indigenous	31%	Specific data not available
Housing status	Access Network	Homeward Trust
Housed	8%	N/A
Staying in shelter	42%	16%
Unsheltered	21%	20%
Hospital (RAH, AHE, etc)	21%	Specific data not available
Other provincial housing (family, ERC)	4%	Specific data not available
Provisionally accommodated (total)	25%	64%
No data	6%	-

ACCESS NETWORK CASE COORDINATION

Age Range



As you can see from the above chart, the age range of Access Network clients is still fairly consistent with the Homeward Trust Edmonton “By Names List”, with a few slight differences.

- First, the Access Network does not see anyone fifteen or under.
- Second, Access Network sees slightly more people in the 25 to 44 years category. The Access Network normally divides this category into two (25-34 and 35-44) but have aligned with the HTE data for ease of comparison. What we can see from Access Network data is that 16 out of our 48 clients, or 33% are between the age of 25 and 34. Further, we can see that 8 of our clients (17%) are between the age of 25 and 30. This is a significant number and potentially points to a trend towards younger people experiencing complex challenges and increased barriers.
- Third, the Access Network serves significantly more people 65 and older. In fact, just over 10% of our clients come from this age group, as opposed to 3% of the people on the By Names List. Up until his recent death, our most senior client was 71 years old.

A SHORT STORY: TANIS GOES TO PAINT NIGHT



Content Warning: Violence, assault

When the Network first met Tanis, she was a young woman having a very difficult time. Due to an extensive history of trauma, her mental health was incredibly concerning; she was in and out of Alberta Hospital and she was at significant risk of being seriously injured or killed. Tanis was so unwell that she was known to run naked into traffic and smash the vehicles passing by, in some cases also assaulting the people driving the cars. Tanis was banned almost everywhere for uttering threats and extreme violence. She also had a reputation of being tremendously unpredictable.

Tanis was connected to a number of Network organizations including Boyle Street Community Services (BSCS), the Intensive Community Transitions Team (ICTT), Edmonton Police Service (EPS), the Human-Centered Engagement Liaison Partnership (HELP) Team, the Inner-City Police and Crisis Team (IC-PACT), Disability Services (formerly PDD), the City of Edmonton Transit Peace Officers and the 24/7 Crisis Diversion Program. Although Tanis was known for being unpredictable and violent, she was also known to be likeable, smart, grateful for the support she was receiving and to have insight into her own mental health and substance use at times.

Members knew it would be a challenge to find Tanis housing as her reputation preceded her and many housing providers would not be able to manage the violent outbursts. She had already been turned down at a number of places. Over the course of a few months, the Network looked at a number of options for Tanis and had determined that Inner Ways would be the best fit all things considered. If Tanis would agree to live there, Network members would make it happen! Also during this time, Network members, specifically from the ICTT and HELP teams were having interactions with Tanis and working persistently to build relationships with her.

Then one day, Tanis was arrested and was held in the Edmonton Remand Centre and was held there for about three months. Although being arrested isn't ideal, it did give Network members an opportunity to do some coordination with Tanis. Tanis agreed to the plan for her to live at Inner Ways, and the ICTT and HELP teams sprang into action to make sure that this vision became a reality. Inner Ways was hesitant; they weren't sure that they could manage Tanis's behaviours. ICTT and HELP, however, were not discouraged and advocated to Inner Ways together. They assured Inner Ways that, working together, they would guarantee with the courts that Tanis would go straight from the Remand Centre to her housing, with no stops in the community in between. They assured Inner Ways that they would guarantee this smooth transition AND that both teams would stay connected for the long term, to support Inner Ways if any difficulties arose. Inner Ways agreed. The plan was approved by the court.

Five months after she was first brought forward to the Network, Tanis moved to Inner Ways and settled in well. She had regular visits from ICTT and HELP. Since then, Tanis has been connected to cultural supports, she has had multiple visits with her children, she has begun beading, and she is seeing a therapist for trauma. There have been no EPS calls for her in months. She is reportedly a quiet resident and stays to herself much of the time, except on paint nights!

Tanis's story is one of incredible resilience and strength; for Tanis to turn such a huge corner in such a short amount of time is a testament to her personal spirit and resolve. Tanis's story is also a story of collaboration and coordination and working across silos to create different outcomes for exceptionally vulnerable people. Many believed that it would be impossible to house Tanis and perhaps it might have been if not for peoples' willingness to trust each other enough to have each other's backs and put Tanis at the heart of the work.

MEMBER PROFILE



There are many amazing professionals who are part of the Access Network. Each quarter, we will highlight just one of these professionals so you can meet them, get to know a little about them, and learn about where they work. For this first quarter, we will be introducing you to Natasha from the Human-centered Engagement Liaison Partnership (HELP) Team.

What is HELP?

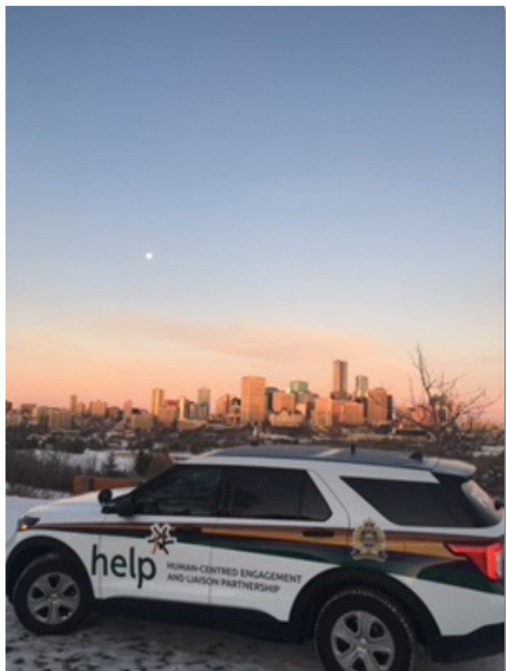
HELP is a partnership between the Edmonton Police Service (EPS) and Boyle Street Community Services (BSCS) that officially launched January 4, 2021 with the overall goal of alleviating pressures on frontline police members by navigating vulnerable community members to a range of appropriate services that support them to move towards positive, long-term outcomes and decreased police interactions.

The HELP team consists of EPS Constables paired with BSCS Navigators from a diverse range of professional backgrounds.

What does the HELP do?

HELP teams don't case manage; rather, they work to ensure that the referrals made to case management services are successful. Referrals to HELP come through patrol members who get repeated calls for service where the issues are social disorders issues.

There are three tiers of referrals. If a tier one referral has been made, HELP members reach out to patrol. At this point, education to patrol members about available resources can resolve the problem. At times, HELP team members can help patrol members with troubleshooting and exploring and advocating for other options. If these problem-solving efforts don't work, HELP can become more involved. In a tier two referral situation, HELP team members will get more information about the person of interest and will seek to connect with them to see what kinds of services they require. In a tier three referral, the HELP team will be required to go immediately to the scene where an incident is occurring to assist patrol members. The HELP team will then attempt to determine what the person's needs are after the situation has been de-escalated. If it is determined that HELP will be more involved, the first step is to obtain informed consent from the person to ensure that they want to be involved with HELP in this way; HELP services are client-centered and not mandated and every person receiving services has consented to this and is able to self-determine their goals for service.



<https://www.edmontonpolice.ca/CommunityPolicing/CommunityInitiatives/NavigationServices/Human-centredEngagementLiaisonPartnershipUnit>

MEMBER PROFILE



I do feel like I have a little bit of magic in me, but I didn't realize how much I could make peoples' lives better.

I'm a firm believer of looking at everyone individually. Don't make blanket statements - even about police. Take everyone individually and judge individually, get to know people and what they are going through.

To ensure smooth, appropriate referrals, a lot of HELP's work is building relationships with other community service providers and also with other branches of EPS. The HELP team has great relationships with many community and government organizations and teams, and also takes part in EPS parades, and spends time in all divisions educating about what they do and other services available.

What does Natasha love about her work?

Natasha loves being able to come to work and help people every day. Natasha believes that although she fell into inner city work by accident, she is where she is meant to be and can see the value in the work that HELP does daily. She feels really fortunate to work in a role that allows her to see such significant change happening for the people that need it. Natasha also really appreciates all of her teammates, and especially her EPS teammates. She believes that the EPS members chosen for HELP are very well-suited to their role and feel strongly about helping vulnerable people.

What does Natasha find most challenging in her work?

The people referred to HELP (there are a lot of them!) are facing very complex challenges. The team sees a lot of people with serious mental health issues like addictions and unhealed trauma - both historical and contemporary resulting from the violence associated with being homeless. It's important to ensure that people are matched with the service that is going to best help them meet their needs, and this includes the HELP service. It can be a challenge to ensure that referrals to HELP are appropriate and that people require this level of service. Further, it can be challenging to then refer people on to other services; at times, the service doesn't exist, doesn't have capacity, or there are barriers for people trying to access it.

People aren't always forthcoming with information, especially when engaging with patrol members; therefore, it takes time and investment in relationships to get to know clients well enough that a proper and complete assessment of their circumstances can be done, and an appropriate course of action can be identified. It can then take even more time to ensure through persistence, education and advocacy, that they are connected to the services they require. The issue is that there is always a shortage of time.

How being part of the Access Network has helped Natasha in her work

So many doors have opened being part of the network; attending has really helped with how well HELP works with other agencies. Natasha really appreciates the opportunity to network, to learning about programs and about different options she wasn't aware of prior to attending. Natasha loves that everyone has so much knowledge and shares it freely - there are no secret squirrels!

Natasha's motto: Say what you mean and mean what you say!

REFERENCES

Bourne, K. (April 28, 2021). Edmonton introduces new strategy for city encampments. *Global News*. <https://globalnews.ca/news/7817185/edmonton-homeless-encampment-strategy/>

Boyle Street Community Services. (April 19, 2021). Support needed for new housing project for vulnerable women. *Edmonton Journal*. <https://edmontonjournal.com/sponsored/news-sponsored/support-needed-for-new-housing-project-for-vulnerable-women>

Cook, D. & Smith, A. (April 26, 2021). Boyle Street supervise drug-use site to stay closed, George Spady site to keep expanded hours. *Edmonton Journal*. https://edmontonjournal.com/news/local-news/boyle-street-supervised-drug-use-site-to-stay-closed-george-spady-site-to-keep-expanded-hours?fbclid=IwAR39HWyM-pl0v6YlExlaWgOST3LdBzeU5w_gNEufzreabOs5lj_YrUotfXQ

Dion, A. (June 7, 2021). Fentanyl overdoses in Alberta increased 118.4 per cent amid pandemic: U of A. *CTV News Edmonton*. <https://edmonton.ctvnews.ca/fentanyl-overdoses-in-alberta-increased-118-4-per-cent-amid-pandemic-u-of-a-1.5459630>

Homeward Trust Edmonton. (2021a). *Emergency Shelter Usage*. Homeward Trust Edmonton. <https://homewardtrust.ca/what-weve-learned/performance-evaluation/>

Homeward Trust Edmonton. (2021). *May 2021 monthly newsletter*. Homeward Trust Edmonton.

Mertz, E. (May 25, 2021). Edmonton social agency calls for urgent action on overdose crisis: “We need to respond”. *Global News*. <https://globalnews.ca/news/7892829/edmonton-boyle-street-overdose-deaths-emergency-response/>

Ramsay, C. (April 28, 2021). Advocates raise concern over closure of Edmonton supervised consumption site: “It’s puzzling”. *Global News*. <https://globalnews.ca/news/7818759/edmonton-boyle-street-supervised-consumption-site-closed/>

REFERENCES

Riebe, N. (March 3, 2021a). COVID-19 prompts changes to shelter model, Edmonton agencies say. *CBC Edmonton*. <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/edmonton/city-council-tipinawâw-edmonton-convention-centre-1.5935901>

Riebe, N. (April 28, 2021b). Edmonton adopts strategy to manage homeless camps. *CBC Edmonton*. <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/edmonton/city-council-covid-19-1.6006378>

Smith, A. (April 20, 2021). Alberta Opioid deaths continue to spiral, with 228 in first two months of 2021. *Calgary Herald*. <https://calgaryherald.com/news/local-news/alberta-opioid-deaths-continue-to-spiral-with-228-in-first-two-months-of-2021>

Smith, A. (May 28, 2021b). 'Defied logic': UCP to close supervised consumption site at Sheldon Chumir and replace with two locations. *Calgary Herald*. <https://calgaryherald.com/news/local-news/it-is-going-to-kill-people-ucp-to-close-calgarys-only-supervised-consumption-site>

Upright, S. (June 3, 2021). Edmonton's spike in drug related deaths, overdoses 'unprecedented'. *CTV News Edmonton*. <https://edmonton.ctvnews.ca/edmonton-s-spike-in-drug-related-deaths-overdoses-unprecedented-1.5455603>

Wakefield, J. (May 24, 2021). 'He was a great man': Woman says father among three who died in Edmonton park. *Edmonton Journal*. <https://edmontonjournal.com/news/local-news/he-was-a-great-man-woman-says-father-among-three-who-died-in-edmonton-park>