

WOOD BUFFALO COMMUNITY WELLNESS AND RESILIENCY

Psychosocial Recovery Progress and Priorities

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Outline

1. Background
2. Objective
3. Strategies/Functions
4. Membership
5. Accomplishments
6. Challenges
7. Current Initiatives
8. Monitoring and Evaluation

Background

WB Community Wellness and Resiliency

- Subcommittee of the Social Recovery Task Force
- Psychosocial Recovery Framework (Government of Alberta)
- Lessons learned from past disasters
- Local leadership, expertise, and commitment to community

Objectives

WB Community Wellness and Resiliency

“To promote mental health, wellness, emotional well-being and resilience, prevent and manage the impacts of wild fire on RMWB residents”

- Increase resilience among direct and indirect impacted residents
- Increase community resilience and recovery
- Reduce vulnerability amongst population

Strategies/Functions

- Support and coordinate psychosocial responses and service delivery
- Information sharing
- Identify unmet needs and gaps 'asset mapping'
- Support the growth and enhancement of local psychosocial services
- Enhance partnerships and collaboration amongst service providers
- Communicate to and influence decision makers

Membership:

Community Partnership Model

The following is a **partial** list of organizations represented:

- Alberta Health Services
- RMWB and Wood Buffalo Recovery Committee
- Fort McMurray Public and Catholic School Districts
- Human Services Ministry
- Athabasca Tribal Council
- WB Canadian Mental Health Association
- YMCA
- WB Housing and Development Corporation
- Canadian Red Cross
- Borealis Counselling
- Legacy Counselling

Accomplishments

Supporting psychosocial recovery

- Connecting community partners to support the positive and smooth transition of students back to school across school boards
- Building community capacity through local training events: Psychological First Aid, Grief and Loss
- Identify gaps and support the provision of psychosocial and counselling services to residents
- Support local decision making, solutions and autonomy
- Communication hub and conduit for psychosocial recovery

Challenges

What we are hearing

- Matching the response/intervention to the community need
- Engagement and uptake of available supports and resources by residents
- Sector collaboration and connectivity

Current Initiatives

Examples of current initiatives are:

- **Connect Access Refer Engage** Wood Buffalo
- Asset Mapping
- Holiday Events
- School/Student wellbeing subcommittee
- Coordination of training and local capacity building

Monitoring and Evaluation

- Track emerging needs and issues identified by psychosocial service providers
- Work together to monitor and evaluate participation and utilization of psychosocial supports and services community-wide

Thank you