

Indigenous Adolescent Mental Health

Objectives

- To be a hub within the TRAM network for the advancement and coordination of transformative research, policy, and health care delivery targeting Indigenous adolescents.
- Reduce barriers and gaps in the continuum of care for Indigenous adolescents struggling with mental health and addiction problems.

Challenges

- Geographical and jurisdictional challenges across diverse Indigenous communities.
- Creating sustainable and transformative change despite the widespread and complex social disparities and inter-generational trauma experienced by vulnerable Indigenous youth.

Partner Organizations

- Department of Psychiatry, University of Saskatchewan
- Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations
- Northern Medical Services, Univ. of Sask.
- Indigenous Peoples' Health Research Centre
- Native Mental Health Association
- SaskHealth ■ Saskatchewan Child Advocate

Transformation in 5 Years

Work within the TRAM network to develop culturally sensitive diagnostic screening and assessment tools for Indigenous adolescents.

Identification and study of Indigenous community-based “best practices” in adolescent mental health, intellectual disabilities, and addictions in rural, remote, urban, reserve and non-reserve settings.

Bridging Indigenous knowledge and Western science by developing an “ethical space” where TRAM researchers; Indigenous health care leaders, front line workers, youth stakeholders; and government policy and decision makers can transform clinical, addiction, and public health to improve the mental health of Indigenous youth.

Our Team Leaders



Caroline Tait (Métis)
•Associate Professor, Department of Psychiatry.
•PhD in medical anthropology, McGill.
•CIHR funding in Indigenous health, FASD, ethics, youth mental health.



Kyle Pretty Shield (FN)
•Executive Director, Health & Social Development Secretariat, Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations.
•Oversees work with 74 First Nation reserves.



Veronica McKinney, MD, (First Nations)
Director of Northern Medical Services, a Division of the Department of Academic Family Medicine, University of Saskatchewan.



Wilson Sutherland (FN) Director of Special Projects, Tri-Partite Memorandum of Understanding, Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nation.



Dr. Mansfield Mela, Associate Professor, and Head of the Forensic Division, Department of Psychiatry, University of Saskatchewan. Research focuses on FASD.

Inputs From Potential TRAM Partners

- Our goal is to identify other TRAM groups/networks that have an Indigenous focus and to link with them.
- To link with potential partners that may not work in Indigenous health but have experience and knowledge that will complement that of our group's and will assist us in reaching our objectives and goals.

Our Team

- Saskatchewan based with extensive research, policy, and service provision experience in Indigenous health.
- We have the ability to engage Indigenous stakeholders nationally and to integrate our work within a larger network team.
- Our team is leading a NCE application in Indigenous health for the 2015 NCE call.