

SUMMARY REPORT

Interior Regional Alliance Summit

OVERVIEW

On January 19, 2022, the virtual Interior Regional Alliance Summit was held, with representation from the East Kootenay Medical Network (EK MedNet), Kootenay Boundary Medicine Network (KB Med-Net), Shuswap Collaborative Alliance, Thompson Medical Alliance, and Vernon Alliance. The purpose of the meeting was to learn from other alliances, and generate new ideas and actions to take away from the meeting. Each of the five regional alliance networks provided short presentations on their group's mandate, structure, key successes and learnings. Themes are highlighted below.

A link to the presentation slides and event recording is available [here](#)>

Mandates

Across the five regional alliance networks it was evident that the purpose of forming these networks is to enhance collaboration with partners, advance priorities, optimize resources and leverage work that is already being done in the region. Furthermore the alliances aim to reduce redundancies, streamline processes, simplify system navigation, and ensure better coordination of services, ultimately leading to larger scale system change. In most instances the networks are viewed as a support mechanism to best service physicians and partner groups.

Network Compositions

The following partners most frequently make up the alliance network compositions.

Facility Engagement (MSA executives, support staff and project leads)	Doctors of BC Engagement Partners	Interior Health Site & Regional Directors	Physician Quality Improvement (PQI)	Divisions of Family Practice
Rural Coordination Centre of BC (RCCBC) / RCME	Shared Care	SSC Leader & Health System Redesign	Chiefs of Staff	Practice Support Program (PSP)

Successes

Several alliance networks shared successes related to physician recruitment and retention activities, such as:

- Building a robust regional physician recruiting strategy across the network
- Building an online presence, such as: social media platform; recruitment videos; targeted advertising; newsletters; and, recruitment-focused websites (www.kbdoctors.ca)

- Building out onboarding tools, such as: onboarding programs ('Red Carpet Program'); the EK MedNet User Guide, which shares contact, funding and other information on all organizations making up the alliance
- Setting up valuable meetings, such as recruitment and retention roundtables

Other alliances shared successes related to specific projects and programs, and intake processes in the Interior region. Some examples include:

- The Cardiac Rehab Program in the Shuswap Collaborative Alliance: Through the efforts of the alliance and having the right partners involved, a proposal was approved for continued funding of the Program by Interior Health. The alliance was able to ensure sustainability of the Program by bringing up issues of importance among network partners.
- Central Intake form: The central intake form and process makes it easier for physicians to navigate funding sources and streamline applications.
- Access to Psychiatry, Indigenous Cultural Safety Education, Maid, Alcohol Use Disorder: Leverages all partners to solve problems in a seamless, fast and efficient manner.

It was evident that the formation of alliances in itself was a big success – bringing together all physician engagement platforms at one table to drive change and create a better system. The alliances provide an opportunity to break down silos where many organizations previously operated in.

Learnings

In order to succeed as an alliance, it is essential that connections are formed with partnering organizations and that relationships are built within alliances and with Interior Health. To help build relationships, alliances can ensure partners are well represented, ensure that everyone has an opportunity to share their experiences, and ensure that all partners are leveraged to solve problems. It is important to learn about what other partners are working on to understand and seek out partnering opportunities. Taking action as a network is key to progressing as a network and maintaining momentum.

One Word Feedback

Each participant was invited to share one word of feedback related to the Interior Regional Alliance Summit.



EVENT FEEDBACK

Almost all attendees reported the meeting to be a good opportunity to learn from and network with members of other alliances. One-hundred percent of survey respondents felt that the event should be held again, and most felt that it should be an annual event. It was suggested that future discussions around sustainability, spread, problem solving, wellness and burnout and taking a strategic approach would be helpful.

TAKEAWAYS AND NEXT STEPS

Throughout the Regional Alliance Summit, it was clear that there is a strong desire amongst partners to bring about change, take action and work collaboratively with others. The reoccurring theme of relationships being paramount rooted much of the discussions around specific activities and successes occurring within each alliance. It was noted that an alliance in itself is a big success as it is bringing groups together that have different mandates (whether in an acute or primary care setting or both) to leverage one another and bring about change. There is still work to be done to continue breaking down silos, but tremendous progress is underway, and the alliances are fertile ground to drive change.