



Sioux Lookout
First Nations
Health Authority

SIoux LOOKOUT FIRST NATIONS HEALTH AUTHORITY

Resolution #17-08

INCREASED CAPACITY FOR MENTAL HEALTH INPATIENT TREATMENT FOR YOUTH

WHEREAS, youth in First Nations communities in northwestern Ontario are experiencing an alarming mental health and addiction crisis, resulting in communities losing youth to suicide; and

WHEREAS, there is a severe lack of inpatient mental health services and psychiatry supports available for youth from the Sioux Lookout region, and the capacity for psychiatric inpatient services in Thunder Bay and Kenora do not meet such high demands of youth in need, which results in youth being discharged and the available resources to them through service delivery organizations are not able to address their high risk needs; and

WHEREAS, First Nations youth are suffering and are not able to access service due to a disjointed system that places undue burden on the patient, family, communities, community-based health services, service delivery organizations, and the hospital in order to that youth do not lose anymore youth to suicide; and


WHEREAS, the Chiefs in Assembly recognize that Sioux Lookout First Nations Health Authority (SLFNHA) and other service organizations are working to provide outpatient mental health services, but this does not meet the needs of acute patients that need to be assessed by mental health specialists, such as a psychiatrist, and to be monitored within an appropriate and safe environment.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Chiefs in Assembly direct SLFNHA and the Sioux Lookout Meno Ya Win Health Centre (SLMHC) to advocate, and negotiate funding, for psychiatric resources that match the needs of the youth and are based in Sioux Lookout and communities to service First Nations, especially immediate needs for our youth, including an in-patient unit at SLMHC for youth with urgent mental health needs where they can be monitored and supported.


BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED THAT, treatment should be appropriate in response to need and culture, and should apply best practices and standards.

Dated this 14th day of September 2017 in Lac Seul First Nation, Ontario.

Moved by:


Chief Brennan Sainnawap, Wapekeka First Nation

Seconded by:



Chief Stan Beardy, Muskrat Dam First Nation

Decision:

CARRIED

Signature of Meeting Chair:



Wally McKay, Meeting Chair