

## BRIEFING NOTE HS03-22

For Information or  For Approval

**Date:** January 26, 2021

**Purpose:** **Coordinated Access Nipissing Update: By Name List, Data Sharing Agreement, HIFIS 4.0**

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This report provides an update on the implementation of Coordinated Access Nipissing and is for information purposes.

### **BACKGROUND:**

Coordinated Access has been identified as a priority in the 10 Year Housing and Homelessness Plan, the Reaching Home Community Plan and, most recently, the Homelessness Action Plan. In addition, both federal and provincial homelessness funding have now been tied to the implementation of Coordinated Access processes and prioritized lists for access of those experiencing homelessness within the District.

**Federally:** Reaching Home Designated Communities must have a Homelessness Management Information System (HIFIS) and Coordinated Access implemented by March 31, 2022.

**Provincially:** Service Managers must have a By-Name List (BNL) in place by January 1, 2022, and must conduct a formal enumeration of homelessness every two years, beginning in 2021 and the count must encompass 100% of a Service Manager's Area. In addition, the By-Name list must cover at least 90% of the Service Manager's Area.

### **CURRENT STATUS/STEPS TAKEN TO DATE:**

- This year's Point in Time (PiT) Count was held over a 24-hour period from Wednesday, October 13 to Thursday October 14, 2021.
- In addition to the 24 hour count, two Registry Days were held on October 14 and 15, 2021 to kick start the By-Name List.
- The first Coordinated Access Nipissing By Name List (CAN BNL) is comprised of 169 individuals who gave their consent during Nipissing Counts to be contacted by services to begin the process of matching them to housing and supports
- The Coordinated Access Nipissing Data Sharing Agreement (DSA) was finalized and sent out for signing in November 2021. Agencies signing the DSA were asked to commit to different levels of involvement in Coordinated Access Nipissing as defined in an agency participation document.

- Built for Zero (BFZ) Canada has created, in consultation with the Province, a BNL Scorecard that is to be used by Service Managers to track the implementation of the BNL. The DNSSAB is in compliance with the mandated December 31, 2021 deadline and has a fully implemented By-Name List
- The Coordinated Access Nipissing process is being researched and designed in consultation with Community Partners. Student placements from Nipissing University have been working with the Housing Team and the Community Advisory Board (CAB) to refine the CAN processes. A presentation entitled “Samantha’s Way Home” has been made to the CAB and DNSSAB staff to provide information about the By Name List and Coordinated Access.
- A half day planning session in January will use an extended version of the same presentation to guide the process planning for CAN.
- The original 169 individuals on the BNL will be tracked as a baseline for the District’s data moving forward.
- As of December 31, 2021:
  - 22 individuals from the original list have been housed, three left the community, and one individual is deceased (this was an individual who had been incarcerated at the time of the PiT Count).
  - A short referral intake form has been circulated to community partners so that new names can be added to the list.
  - A Housing Resource Inventory is under development so that individuals from the BNL can be matched with the housing supports and options that best fit their need as spaces become available.

**RESOURCES REQUIRED:**

The DNSSAB is mandated by the Province to develop, implement, maintain and report on the BNL, which will require staffing resources. These dedicated staffing resources will need to develop processes and reporting forms for community partners to add names to the list and report updates in a timely manner. In addition, the expectation that at least 90% of the District will be actively involved with either referring to the list or working with the individuals who are identified, will mean that a district-wide process for referral must be developed and implemented.

The BNL is the first step in the development of Coordinated Access Nipissing. In addition to the resources required for the monitoring of the BNL, CAN will require on-going, dedicated staffing to receive referrals, provide assessments, meet with other CAN Team partners to review the By Name List and begin matching individuals to housing and supports. As the Service Manager, the DNSSAB is obligated to implement policies that will delegate housing and support resources using the prioritization processes defined by the BNL and CAN.

HIFIS 4.0 implementation and maintenance will also be part of the DNSSAB’s obligation for CAN, along with the Data reporting that will be required by both the Provincial and Federal funding bodies.

In February 2022, Built for Zero Canada will open the opportunity for new communities to join BFZ. This was identified within the Homelessness Action Plan as a way for the District to move forward with the goal of reaching functional zero for chronic homelessness within Nipissing. Becoming a BFZ community would require a re-alignment of housing and homelessness services and supports that would fit well with the implementation of CAN.

**RISK IDENTIFICATION AND MITIGATION:**

As of 2022, all Federal and Provincial homelessness funding will be tied to mandated requirements for regular enumeration, data compilation, and service and housing prioritization and collaboration.

**CONCLUSION:**

The implementation of HIFIS 4.0 will facilitate collection of data throughout the District of Nipissing. The data gathered can then be used for planning at all levels of service and governance, and also for the

creation of a collaborative and data-driven continuum of services for the individuals who are represented by the data.

The implementation of Coordinated Access, PiT Counts, Registry Days, HFIS 4.0 and the creation of shared processes, consents and assessments will fulfill the mandatory requirements of the funders while strengthening the District's Homelessness system. With the successful and collaborative implementation of CAN, it is anticipated that many of the 169 individuals who were counted on October 13, 2021 and agreed to be placed on the By Name list, will be connected to appropriate supports and housing.