



BOARD OF DIRECTORS ANNUAL REPORT

2020-21

First Nations Digital Health Ontario

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FNDHO

First Nations Digital Health Ontario

Updated FNDHO Services Model

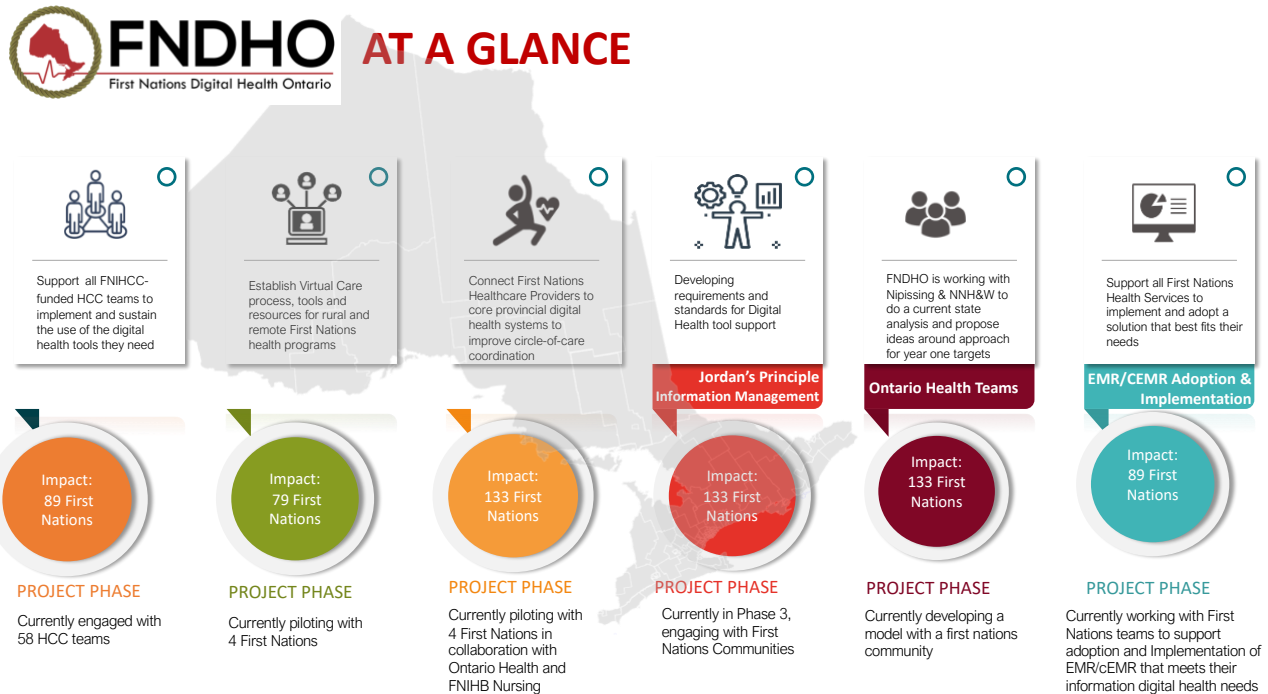


Overview

The FNDHO Approach

FNDHO is guided by its' four core principles: Navigation, Transformation, Capacity Building, and Advocacy. With these principles in mind, FNDHO offers support in the following 10 service areas: Home & Community Care Digital Health, Virtual Care, EMR/cEMR Adoption & Implementation, OHT participation, Jordan's Principle Information Management, Privacy and Security, Training and Knowledge, Workflow Optimization, Provincial eHealth System Access, and Circle-of-Care Coordination. For each of these services, FNDHO uses a roadmap approach to guide First Nations communities through a journey of understanding & identifying gaps and potential solutions to build a strong foundation of digital health.

Year at a Glance by Service Area



Home & Community Care Digital Health

FNDHO is collaborating with the Ontario Region FNIHCC Team to support the 89 First Nations Health Service Teams across the province who provide Home and Community Care services to a total of 125 communities. The objective is to move from paper-based information management and support the adoption and sustained use of cEMRs, EMRs and Virtual Care tools.

The first round of engagements has been completed and FNDHO has started working with 58 HCC teams. Of these, 21 were funded in 2020 with ongoing support to adopt and use digital health tools. The second round of engagements is in progress for 2021.



Virtual Care

FNDHO began working with provincial and First Nations partners in 2020 to identify and analyze digital health-enabled tools and processes that First Nations are using to support pandemic planning, preparedness, and response. Currently, FNDHO is working with Bearskin Lake, Lac La Croix, FFTAHS, Chippewas of Nawash, Dicilo, Shibogama, WNHAC, Moose Cree, BNA, IFNA, Windigo, and the North Shore Tribal Council towards understanding how virtual care tools may benefit First Nations health teams and their clients.



Provincial eHealth System Access

FNDHO is collaborating with Ontario Health to develop a ConnectingOntario Viewer Access Model for First Nations clinical providers and will be working with an initial group of First Nations health teams to validate this new process. FNDHO is also working with FNIHB Nursing to address circle of care issues between First Nations and Federal service providers and is developing a process to validate this with four First Nations in Ontario who receive nursing services from FNIHB.



Circle-of-Care Coordination

FNDHO is working with multiple First Nations health teams and provincial and private practice partners to enhance health information sharing among all circle of care providers. Our work varies depending on the mix of health care partners involved in community members' circle of care. Work currently underway with SLFNHA is taking into consideration the collection and sharing of client health information between community-level providers, SLFNHA providers, physicians, Tribal Councils, and Provincial agencies.



Jordan's Principle

Work is underway with First Nations health teams to support information management for stakeholders involved in Jordan's Principle Programs. FNDHO has been engaging with Jordan's Principle teams across the province and working with navigators, case managers, health directors and others to understand how Jordan's Principle information is currently being managed. A main objective is to clearly understand the requirements for digital health tools that can support improved information management and process coordination. An E-Blast was distributed on March 1, 2021 to Jordan's Principle teams and health directors announcing this support.



Ontario Health Teams

FNDHO is working to support First Nations' meaningful inclusion in evolving Ontario Health Team models. This work takes many forms as we work collaboratively with provincial partners as part of the evolving Ontario Health Teams environment. Adoption and use of digital health tools, access to provincial systems and data, and improved client-centric workflows are being prioritized. Currently, work is underway with Nipissing First Nation and the Near North Health and Wellness Ontario Health Team to pilot this work with an expectation that outcomes can be extended to other First Nations wanting to integrate with their local Ontario Health Teams.



Privacy & Security

FNDHO now has an introduction video and other privacy and security education and training resources available on our website. FNDHO also provides communities with a privacy and security package (manual, workplan, etc.) that can also be accessed from our website. FNDHO works with First Nations health teams to enhance and sustain privacy and security policies and practices. Additionally, FNDHO is working with Nipissing First Nation on an IT Governance and Security Model to address hacking, cyber security and ransomware threats. As this IT Governance and Security Model is further developed and tested it is our intention to assist other First Nations in Ontario to take advantage of it.



Training & Knowledge

FNDHO has an active partnership with Saint Elizabeth's Health to create online training and knowledge resources specific to First Nations health teams. To date, an online course has been designed to support First Nations health centre staff learn about privacy and security, best practices, processes and obligations. An E-Blast was distributed on November 9, 2020 to all First Nations health teams. FNDHO is continuing our partnership with Saint Elizabeth's Health on an Information Management Training Course that will be ready for use in the first part of 2021/22.



Workplan for 21/22

The FNDHO team is currently completing our workplan for 2021/22 and it will be circulated for the first quarterly Board Meeting in the early part of next fiscal year. Essentially, the workplan is structured around FNDHO's services model and aligned with available budget amounts for next fiscal year. So far, all major priorities identified by the FNDHO team and raised by communities and partners are accommodated within our draft workplan and we have the capacity to support these priorities as they are currently understood.



FNDHO Operations Update

FNDHO Multi-year Funding Agreement with FNIHB

- FNDHO has submitted all required documentation to FNIHB in order to establish a direct funding agreement. It is expected that a new, multi-year funding agreement will be in place by April 2021.

2020/21 Budget

- FNDHO was sufficiently resourced to sustain necessary activities and successfully achieve our workplan's objectives. However, some of FNDHO's requested funding was provided late in the fiscal year and will not be fully spent by March 31, 2021. FNIHB was aware this would be the case and an unspent funds plan is under development for how to best apply unused 2020/21 budget against 2021/22 workplan activities.

2021/22 Budget

- FNDHO has submitted all necessary workplans and supporting documents to FNIHB in order to receive our 2021/22 requested budget and we are expecting a transfer of funding in April 2021. Given that FNDHO has unspent funds from this current fiscal year, we will work with FNIHB to determine how/if to modify budget contributions from FNIHB for 2021/22 to take unspent funds into account and align with FNDHO budget needs.

Board Meetings and Reporting

- The FNDHO team is setting up annual Board Meeting and Reporting processes. Our intention is to hold quarterly virtual Board Meetings. Board Meetings will include an info package consisting of an Executive Director's Quarterly Operations and Budget Report and any motions, decisions or resolutions that require action from the Board.

Communication Updates

- New FNDHOs website targeted for Spring 2021
- New Videos, Training Resources, and surveys available on FNDHOs website
- New FNDHO Mailing List for main contacts at First Nations Health Services to sign up and receive regular updates about FNDHO services

Professional Development

- FNDHO team has completed CancerCare Ontario Cultural Safety Course and is currently completing the more in-depth San'yas Indigenous Cultural Safety Course as well.