

**GCHI MINO NAADMAADWIN TEG**

***Fact Sheet***

**WHO:** The UCCMM Tribal Council submitted a proposal and was successful in its application for Gwekwaadziwin. Gwekwaadziwin is a short term project funded by Health Canada’s Health Services Integration Fund (HSIF), ending March 2015. Maamwi Naadamadaa became the steering committee for the Gwekwaadziwin Project Coordinator that worked on developing a new model of service provision.



**WHAT:** The intent is to initiate an integration strategy recognizing existing services within the UCCMM catchment area.

**WHY:** The goal was to design a culturally relevant, wholistic treatment approach to those struggling with mental health and addictions issues. The mobilization of services means that we go to those who are in need instead of waiting for them to come to us. We are taking proactive measures to minimize risk of harm before it becomes reactive crisis response.

**HOW:** Maamwi Naadamadaa has adopted the definition of integration as: *Organizations in the community operating as a single system, under single governance and an understanding that commits all partners to clear processes for decision making and resource allocation; Those having common values and philosophies, and common program policies and practices; Individuals, families and communities experience seamless, timely and effective supports which are monitored and improved through shared outcomes and quality improvement; and the possibility of some programs being consolidated or re-aligned.* Maamwi Naadamadaa partners designed a wholistic services mobilization model using the Clan Structure, based on the 7 grandfather teachings and using a traditional sharing circle approach to addressing high risk situations.

- **The Clan structure** = multi-sectorial involvement. This means roles are filled with representation from Community, Policing, Justice, Education, Child and Family Services, Culture, Employment/Training and Health & we are operating as a single system.
- **The Seven Grandfathers** = the foundation to the common values, philosophies, program policies and practices.
- **The Sharing Circle** creates a system that allows individuals, families and communities to seamless, timely, and effective supports as well as allowing sector and community professionals the opportunity to assess a situation from many different perspectives ensuring no one is left without the support they need.

**WHEN:** Implementation is expected to proceed in 2015.

**WHERE:** Mnidoo Mnising

Figure 1: Procedure Outline

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### **What does Gchi Mino Naadmaadwin Teg mean and how did that name get chosen?**

*Gchi Mino Naadmaadwin Teg means a place where you will get the ultimate level of services and the name was given in a naming ceremony by Elder, Leona Nahwehgahbow. This aligns nicely with Maamwi Naadamadaa Service Excellence in Action motto.*

### **How is Gchi Mino Naadmaadwin Teg going to operate?**

*Gchi Mino Naadmaadwin Teg is best described as a situation discussion table where partners meet on a weekly basis. Gchi Mino Naadmaadwin Teg partners come from all sectors (education, policing, justice, health, child and family services, etc.). These partners work in the communities on Mnidoo Mnising with community service providers.*

*Sometimes, things are happening with an individual, family or community that is putting them at risk. The risk factors of the situation are what forms the discussion and determines who needs to be part of the support services that are offered to keep the situation from getting worse.*

### **What do you mean “Risk Factors”?**

*Risk factors are things like skipping school, not having a stable residence, neglect, crime, divorce/separation/break up, being a victim of crime, history of court involvement, addictions, mental health issues, being isolated or alone, struggling to make ends meet, high stress or poor coping skills etc. People often struggle with one or two of these factors over their lifetime and are able to handle it on their own, however, when someone is dealing with several of these risk factors all at once, they may need and want extra supports – people willing to lend a hand, strengthening connections in the family and community, offer support, resources and hope for the future and this is what Gchi Mino Naadmaadwin Teg will provide.*

Gchi Mino Naadmaadwin Teg does not represent new services....but represents a new old way of delivering existing services. Gchi Mino Naadmaadwin Teg in action is an opportunity for community and sector professionals to work together to offer the best possible service available. Partnering agencies are still responsible for the ongoing daily business as usual activities with regards to case management, counselling, note taking, appointment scheduling etc.

### **What about privacy and confidentiality?**

*All members are doubly bound by Oaths of Confidentiality taken in Ceremony led by Elders and those signed in their home agencies. All team members have participated in professional development (PD) to advance their understanding of the inherent protocols and teachings attached to the Anishnaabek clan system, the seven grandfather teachings and sitting in a traditional circle. Further, PD has been undertaken to understand the four filter approach to information sharing with respect to provincial and federal legislation. Specific controls include sharing and using information that is “need to know”, relevant to the situation being discussed and not used for purposes other than those identified by the support team. Only those identified as the support team will need detailed information. Note taking in circle is restricted and only non-identifiable data is collected by the Coordinator. The coordinator shares the information with Maamwi Naadamadaa to ensure the success of Gchi Mino Naadmaadwin Teg efforts.*

### **What if a person doesn’t want the help or support that is offered?**

*People have the right to choose – they can say yes, no or not right now to the services offered. Support services are offered – not forced on individuals, family or community.*

For more information on Gchi Mino Naadmaadwin Teg or to make a referral, please contact:  
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