

Evaluation of Health Promoting School Coordinator Initiative

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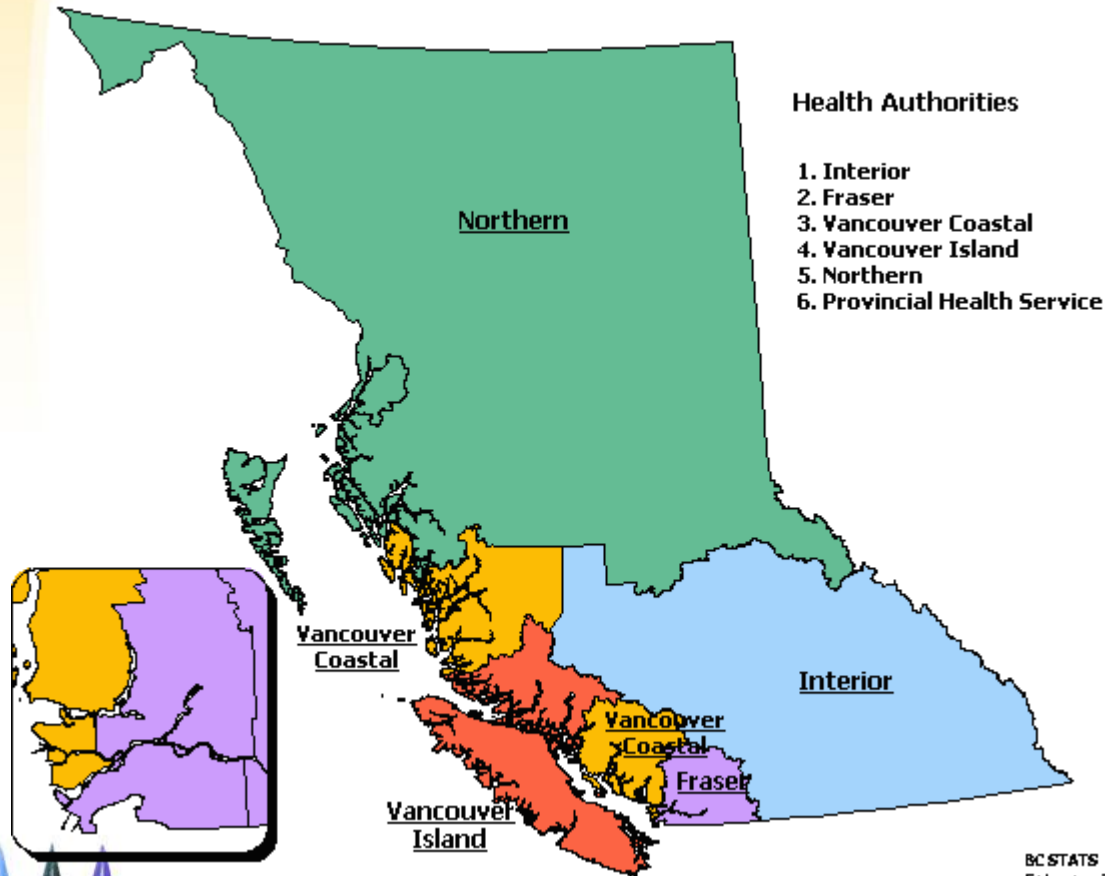


Outline

- Background of the Initiative
- Evaluation planning
- Working Collaboratively
- Learning – Successes & Challenges
- Next Steps

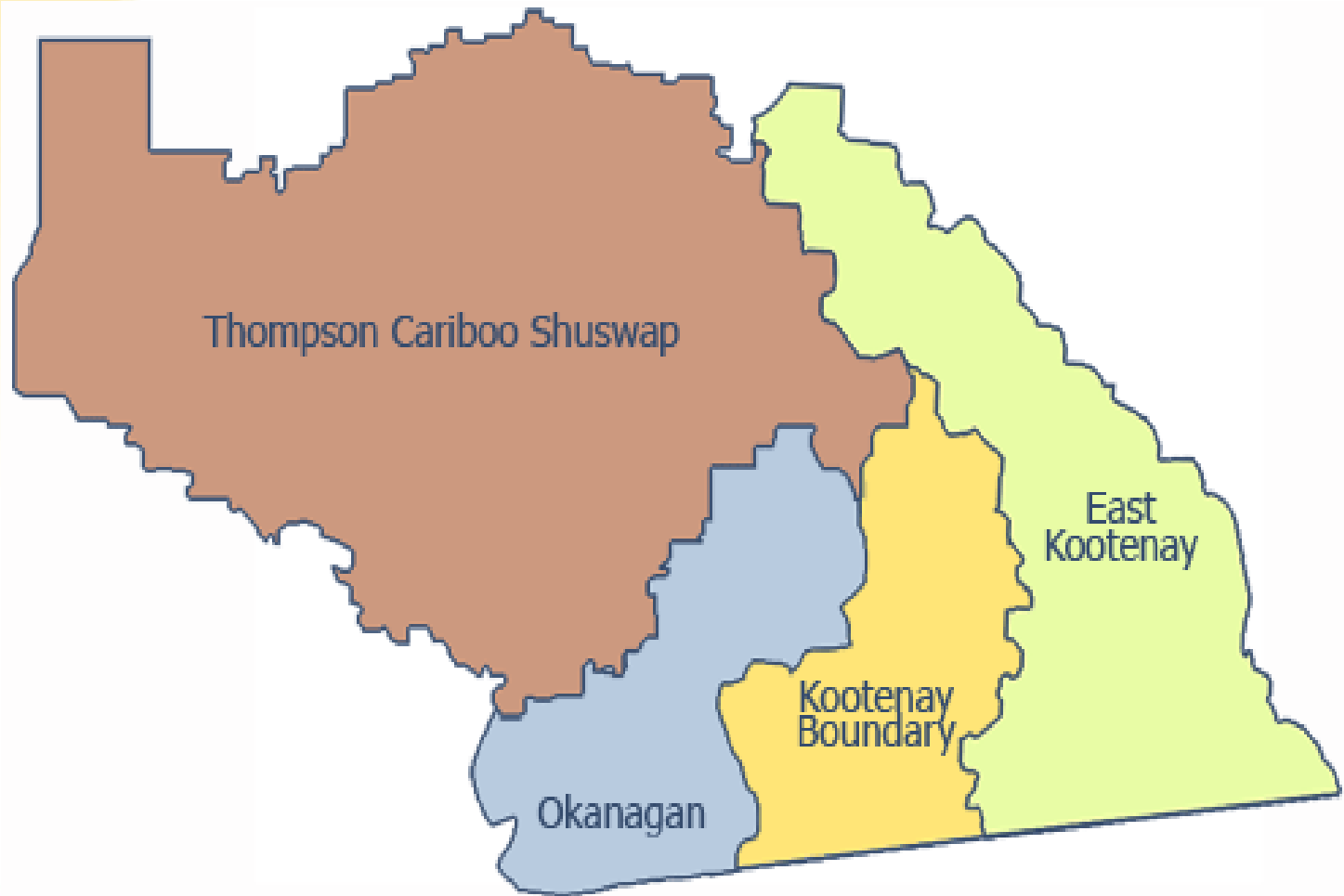


BC Health Authorities

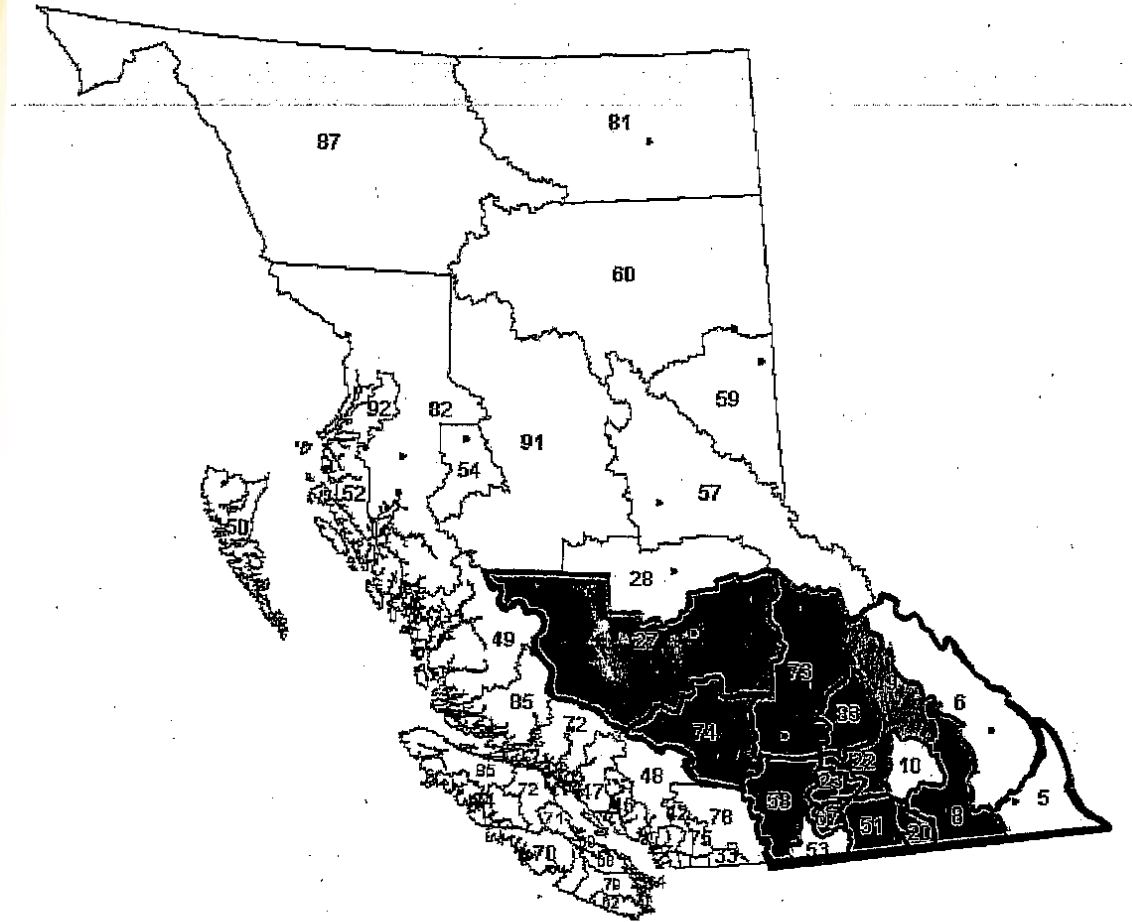


BC STATS
February 2002

Interior Health Authority



BC School Districts



Healthier Schools, Healthier Students (HSHS) Project Overview

Project planning: Fall 2007

Consultation Phase: Feb 2008 with School District Staff, IH staff, MCFD, parents and youth

Recommendation Report: June 2008 “IH Roles in the School Setting: Recommendations for Change”

Implementation Plan: 2009-2010

- Project Advisory Committee formed and a Project Lead named
- Three year HSHS Implementation Plan developed - Contract \$ reallocated for 2010/11 School year



HSHS Project Overview

1 Recommendation for Change from Report:

Build on and improve the existing communication systems with the school community and other stakeholders.



Health Promoting School (HPS) Coordinator Initiative

- Recommendation #1: A clear and concrete way to support school districts in their efforts of health promotion
- 11 public school districts within IH are participating in the initiative year 1 evaluation
- 3 year contract with each School District



Planning for Evaluation

- HSHS advisory committee identified the need for evaluation in the early stages of planning the initiative – Dec 2009.
- Innovative approach – HPS Coordinators at a School District level vs. working at the school level.
- Published literature focus on topic-based interventions that do not span the full extent of HPS.



**What would you
want to evaluate
about this initiative?**



HPS Coordinator Evaluation Plan

Evaluation Plan: 2 stage evaluation plan developed Winter 2010

Purpose: Determine in what ways and to what extent the HPS Coordinator initiative has been effective in supporting the establishment and/or further development of Health Promoting School settings in funded School Districts



HPS Coordinator Evaluation

Audience:& Uses for Evaluation Findings

1. Leadership within IH Promotion & Prevention, MHSU program areas and within funded SDs to make improvements, inform future planning & budgeting for IH work in school health
2. Staff within IH, addictions agencies, and teachers, support staff and district Parent Advisory Councils from funded SDs serving as a learning function.
3. Other organizations who may be interested in evaluation results, including non-funded SDs, Ministry of Education, and provincial and national associations that promote school health.



HPS Coordinator Initiative

Evaluation Plan: Year 1 Process Evaluation

- Examining how the initiative was implemented in each school district
- Identify successes and challenges
- To provide an opportunity to improve the initiative in year 2 and year 3.
- Knowledge and attitudes towards health promoting schools by school administration and staff – early outcome



Evaluation Questions

If you were evaluating this initiative, what would your key evaluation questions be?



HPS Coordinator Evaluation

1. Implementation of the HPS Coordinator Initiative (Yr 1)

What does implementation of the initiative look like at each SD? What are the success factors and key challenges for the implementation of the initiative?

2. Provision of services by the HPS Coordinator (Yr 1)

What services are provided? To whom? Do services meet expectations for the HPS Coordinators' roles, as outlined in the Evaluation Plan

3. Initial Outcomes of the HPS Coordinator Initiative (Yr 1)

How has the HPS Coordinator initiative improved SD administrators' & school administrators' knowledge of and attitudes toward the HPS approach



HPS Coordinator Initiative

Year 1 Evaluation

- Within IH, we had lost our PH evaluation position
- Needed to find evaluation expertise to put the evaluation plan into action
- Collaborative action with external contractor Erica Bell-Lowther, M.S.W., Ph.D.



Moving forward

- initial discussions held with Erica re her interest in doing the evaluation
- Health authority processes with Accounts payable and contracts put into place.
- Foundational documents to Erica for review, i.e. Evaluation plan for Healthier Schools, Healthier Students project, Logic Model & mid-year HPS Coordinator survey results



HPS Coordinator Evaluation

Evaluation Plan: Post test design

Methodology:

- Collecting information from stakeholders near the end of the first and third year of the HPS Coordinator Initiative

Data Collection:

- **Document Review**
- **Interviews – changed to Focus Groups, Key Informant Interviews**
- **Online survey**



Working Collaboratively

- Detailed work plan and timeline
- Met regularly with Project lead and Project sponsor
- Provided progress reports at regular intervals
- Took changes to the original Evaluation plan to the advisory committee for approval



Working collaboratively

- Suggested changes to HPS Coordinator survey questions to address possible gaps
- Developed focus group and online survey questions with health authority leads and advisory committee.
- Pretested online survey questions for Superintendents & Principals



Working collaboratively

- Worked with the project lead to develop communication to all participants
- Worked closely with Project Lead re interpretation of results
- Developed draft report based on findings and worked with Project lead, Project sponsor and MHO to finalize the report.



Guiding Theories

- **Settings approach to health promotion – ecological perspective.**
- **Four pillars of CSH – Social & Physical Environment, Teaching & Learning, Healthy School Policy, and Partnerships & Services.**
- **HPS coordinators expected to work in a number of ways in order to achieve the desired impact, i.e. development/expansion of the HPS pillars.**
- **Change theory – focused the evaluation and the data collection methods as well as the contract deliverables.**



Successes

- HPS Coordinators were making a difference
- Continuing to build relationships with School Districts and schools.
- Ministry of Health utilizing the IH Experience for the BC Families Healthy Schools initiative.
- Maintained a project lead for the HSHS project.
- Identified the need for further training on “how to” do CSH for front line staff.



Challenges

- IH reorganization and subsequent changes to Public Health.
- Engaging superintendents & principals in the provision of feedback.
- Time – overwhelming workload & competing priorities for administrators & teachers
- Limited resource, i.e. human capacity & time with the broad mandate of Comprehensive school Health.



Resources & Tools

- Evaluation expertise of Erica Bell-Lowther and Geeta Cheema
- Survey Monkey and designing online surveys
- Health authority content experts provided input into the development of the key evaluation questions
- In house resources, i.e. project lead time, added to already existing meetings to do focus group sessions.



Next steps

- Training for front line staff being planned in September.
- Planning for the year 3 evaluation has begun
- Re-engaged Erica to do the impact evaluation for year 3



Pearls from the Experience

- Evaluation can inform next steps to improve the quality of the initiative
- Demonstrates accountability & credibility
- Provide basis for future funding decisions
- Learning for the project sponsor/lead and participants.



More Information:

Report is available on the public
Interior Health Website

<http://www.interiorhealth.ca/sites/Partners/SchoolDistricts/Pages/HealthPromotingSchoolsInitiative.aspx>



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Questions ?

