BUILDING A PLATFORM FOR INTERSECTORAL, INTERDISCIPLINARY PRACTICE IN BC
Strengthening Primary Health Care through Public Health and Primary Care Collaboration

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The Potential of Integration

“The integration of primary care and public health could enhance the capacity of both sectors to carry out their respective missions and link with other stakeholders to catalyze a collaborative, intersectoral movement toward improved population health”. (IOM, 2012, p. 1)
Primary Care

• “The first point of entry to a health care system; the provider of person-focused (not disease-oriented) care over time;
• the deliverer of care for all but the most uncommon conditions; and the part of the system that integrates or co-ordinates care provided elsewhere or by others” (Starfield, 1998)
Public Health

• What we, as a society, do collectively to ensure the conditions in which people can be healthy.

• The moral aim of PH is to improve the health of the population and promote health equity.

• Strategies include health promotion, disease and injury prevention, health protection, and health assessment and surveillance.
Primary health care is a broad term conceptualizing a philosophy and an approach to health policy and service provision to individuals, communities and populations that includes health services provided by both the Primary Care and Public Health sectors.
Platform

• The basic technology of a computer system that defines how a computer is operated and determines what other kinds of software can be used.

• A formal declaration of the principles on which a group makes its appeal to the public.

• A support structure from which to dive off a cliff
Characteristics of Complex Systems

A 'complex' system

Emergent behavior that cannot be simply inferred from the behavior of the components

Complex Systems
- Involve: Many Components
- Dynamically Interacting and giving rise to A Number of Levels or Scales which exhibit Common Behaviors

Size Scale
- Emergence
- Hierarchies
- Self-Organization
- Control Structures
- Composites
  - Substructure
  - Decomposability

Time Scale
- Chaos
  - Fine Scales Influence Large Scale Behavior

Evolution

Trandisciplinary Concepts
Across Types of Systems, Across Scales, and thus Across Disciplines
An Ecological Framework for Building Successful Collaboration between Primary Care and Public Health
• Experience and knowledge about collaboration
• Leadership skills in collaboration
• Willingness to collaborate
• Responsiveness to community needs
• Understanding a population perspective
Interpersonal

• Role Clarity
• Effective Communication
• Trusting and Inclusive Relationships
• Shared Values, Beliefs and Attitudes
• Effective Clinical Decision Making Processes
Organizational

- Clear mandates, vision and goals for collaboration
- Strategic coordination and communication
- Formal leaders as champions
- Collaborative organizational culture
- Optimal use of human and material resources
- Collaborative approaches to service delivery
Systemic

- Govt and regulatory policies and mandates for collaboration
- A harmonized information and communication infrastructure
- Formal systems leaders as champions
- An effective decision making framework
- Funding models and financial incentives to support collaboration
- Targeted professional education
- Health services structures that promote collaboration
Challenges

Challenges at All System Levels but some of the most important may be at the intrapersonal level.

• System Driven Collaborators
• Cautious Collaborators
• Competent Isolationists
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