

Still relevant?

HIV Organizations in British Columbia

UNDER THE CURRENT SOCIAL SERVICE MODELS IN BRITISH COLUMBIA, THE CLIMATE OF HIV SOCIAL SERVICES IS CHANGING.

- Many organizations have removed the word *AIDS* from their names
- Medical developments have made living with HIV more manageable for many people
- Studies show co-infection with hepatitis C or tuberculosis presents distinct challenges

Do AIDS service organizations need to modify their model of service?

There is talk about blood-borne pathogens, communicable diseases, chronic diseases, and more. Some service organizations are changing their mandates and expanding programming to be more inclusive.

What service model is most appropriate?

- HIV only
- HIV & HEPATITIS C
- HIV & OTHER COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

Positive Women's Network, a partnership of women living with and affected by HIV, supports women in making informed choices about HIV and health. We have provided safe access to support and health education to communities throughout British Columbia for over twenty years. Currently we have over 750 members (women living with HIV). Positive Women's Network provides leadership on women's HIV health and social issues locally and nationally.

OUR RESEARCH

The authors conducted several interviews with HIV service staff throughout the province on programming models.

Concerns regarding a shift in service model included the following:

- 1 Insufficient funding and changes to funding policies
- 2 Increased demands on staff
- 3 Overstretched organizational capacity
- 4 Impact on people mono-infected with HIV and anti-stigma work unique to HIV

That is a huge concern. Just how the decisions get made and whether we have the ability to provide input.

ANKORS

When your funders are telling you that this is where you need to go in order to receive funding, you have little choice unless you have some magical donor out there to fund you, which most of us don't. So yes, there is definitely pressure to move to where the funding is.

Living Positive Resource Centre

It would be a complete revamp of services. It doesn't mean that it would change the essence of the clinic, but it doesn't have the capacity right now.

Oak Tree Clinic

Research on the needs of service consumers is needed, as changing service models will have a huge impact on the health outcomes of people living with HIV in British Columbia.

