

Provincial Updates 2012 – Saskatchewan – Donna Hendrickson

September 9, 2012

1. The information you provide pertains to which province or territory?

Province or territory

Please select

SK

2. Indicate today's date

Month

Day

Year

Please select

September

9

2012

3. First and last name

Donna Hendrickson

4. Trans-related affiliation (e.g.: GP serving the trans communities, civil rights advocate or lawyer, social worker, surgeon, member of an advocacy group, mental health professional, gender studies student, etc...)

mental health professional--psychiatry

5. Do GPs accept trans patients?

Yes

unknown--have not recently had anyone stating a GP unwilling to follow them for primary care

6. If your answer above is positive, are GPs willing to initiate hormone treatment?

Yes

7. If your answer above is positive, are those services provided in...

Urban setting?

8. Are there GPs who specialize in trans health care?

No

But many willing to learn around patients in their practice

9. If your answer above is positive, are those services provided in...

urban settings?

rural settings?

10. If your answer is negative, where are trans clients referred?

No Response

11. Is there trans health training offered to health professionals interested in trans health?

No

Overview taught in one seminar session to psychiatry residents. One resident did 8 week elective time with me seeing trans individuals prior to more structured training in Vancouver and Montreal.

12. Is there a "community of practice" of health professionals (by that we mean the health professionals serving trans communities getting together to exchange referrals, knowledge and support)?

No

Not formalized

13. Are the following health professionals seeing trans clients/patients?

	Yes	No
Psychiatrists	X	
Psychologists	X	
Counselors	X	
Social Workers	X	

Comments:

14. If yes, how many of these professionals see trans clients/patients? (approx. is OK)

Psychiatrists - 1

Psychologists - 3

Counselors - 1

Social Workers - 2

15. If yes, is it privately or publicly funded?

	Private pay	Public pay
Psychiatrists		X
Psychologists	X	X
Counselors		
Social Workers		

Comments:

16. If yes, is there a yearly quota imposed by the health ministry on how many clients/patients will be covered, if so, how many?

No Response

17. Do these professionals write letters of support for hormone therapy or surgery?

Yes

18. Are Surgical Reassignment Surgeries performed in your province?

	Yes	No
Mastectomy with chest contouring	X	
Mastectomy without chest contouring	X	
Hysterectomy	X	
Oophorectomy	X	

Metaoidioplasty			X
Phalloplasty			X
Breast augmentation		X	
Tracheal shaving			X
Facial feminization		X	
Penectomy			
Orchiectomy		X	
Vaginoplasty			X

Comments:

19. If yes, are these surgeries privately or publicly funded?

	Private pay	Public pay
Mastectomy with chest contouring	X	
Mastectomy without chest contouring	X	
Hysterectomy		X
Oophorectomy		X
Metaoidioplasty	X	X
Phalloplasty	X	X
Breast augmentation	X	
Tracheal shaving	X	
Facial feminization	X	
Penectomy		
Orchiectomy		X
Vaginoplasty	X	X

Comments:

20. If SRS are publicly funded, are there clients sent out of province or country for their surgeries, which ones?

	Yes	No
Mastectomy with chest contouring		
Mastectomy without chest contouring		
Hysterectomy		
Oophorectomy		
Metaoidioplasty		X

Phalloplasty			X
Breast augmentation			
Tracheal shaving			
Facial feminization			
Penectomy			
Orchiectomy			
Vaginoplasty			X

Comments:

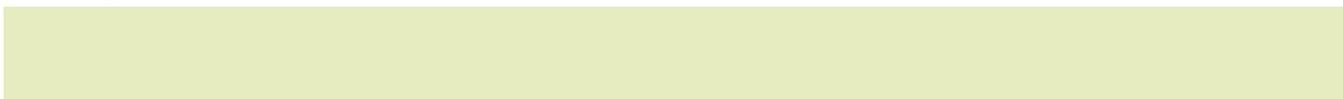
21. If SRS are publicly funded, and clients/patients wish to go out of province or country, is this permitted?

	Yes	No
Mastectomy with chest contouring		
Mastectomy without chest contouring		
Hysterectomy		
Oophorectomy		
Metaoidioplasty		X
Phalloplasty		X
Breast augmentation		
Tracheal shaving		
Facial feminization		
Penectomy		
Orchiectomy		
Vaginoplasty		X

Additional comments?: Our province coverage remains the same as in past years--surgical and OR time covered by Sask Health if the individual is OK'd by CMHA in Toronto. Have never had anyone in my care have a penectomy so am unfamiliar with that process/availability. Recently, some trans men have had chest wall surgery done by some plastic surgeons in Saskatchewan, but I am not sure if that was an individual agreement by the surgeon or whether they will be open to doing more surgeries of this nature. Still not sure how it will ultimately be billed/covered. Have not been able to find anyone here doing tracheal shaving so people tend to go out of province. Post-surgical care should be provided by care team in place prior to surgery and emergency care would obviously be available in those rare instances if necessary.

22. If SRS are publicly funded, is there a yearly quota imposed by the health ministry on how many surgeries will be covered, if so, how many?

No Response



23. Do trans patients/clients have access to post-surgery (SRS) care?

	Yes	No
GPs	X	
Emergency room	X	
Urologist	X	
Gynecologist	X	
Surgeon	X	

Comments:

24. Are there endocrinologists seeing trans patients?

Yes

2

25. Where are endocrinological referrals sent if not available in your province?

No Response

26. Are there speech therapists seeing trans patients?

	Yes	No
FTM	X	
MTF	X	

Comments:

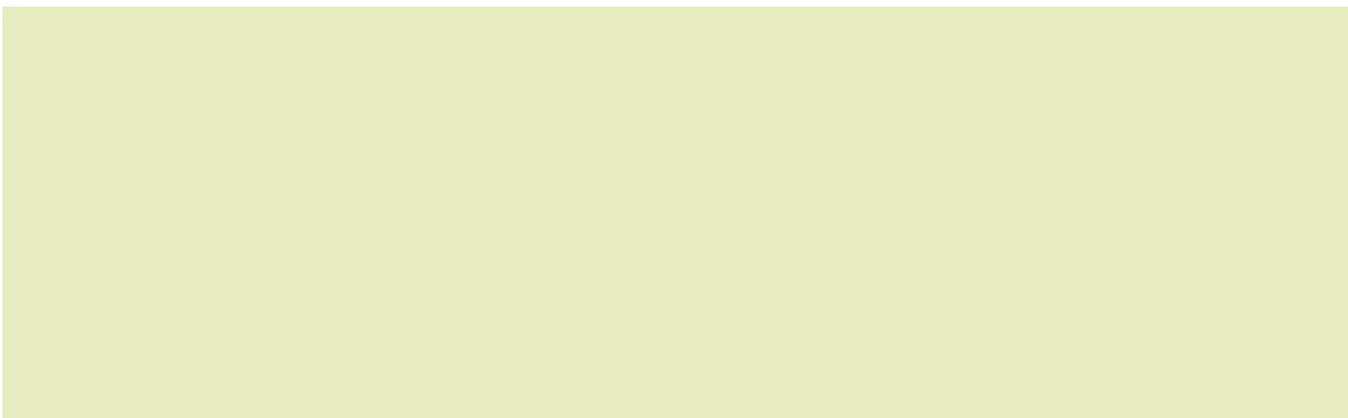
27. If your answer above is positive, is the service private pay or is it publicly funded?

	Private pay	Publicly funded
FTM		X
MTF		X

Comments:

28. Are there health professionals accepting referrals for gender independent (gender non-conforming) children and adolescents?

No



29. Are puberty blockers being prescribed?

	Yes	No
GPs		X
Pediatric Endocrinologists		X

Comments?: There is no one identified as being the person that gender variant children or adolescents would see. I do not see non-adult individuals and so what typically happens is that local child/adolescent psychiatrists or psychologists will see them and find resources, sometimes out of province, to consult. I have known some children/adolescents who have gone out of province for their primary trans care. There is one internal medicine doc who has done most of the endocrine care. He may be nearing retirement within the next several years. I have heard of other endocrinologists who see trans people on an ad hoc basis.

30. Are there health care professionals who treat trans patients (children or adults) with reparative (or corrective) therapy?

unknown. No one identified as being the expert or specialist in this area to my knowledge.

31. Is electrolysis for transwomen privately or publicly funded?

Privately

32. Are hormone readiness assessments provided?

Yes

33. If hormone readiness assessments are available, are they provided in

Urban setting?

34. If hormone readiness assessments are available, what is the protocol used?

WPATH SOC7

35. If hormone readiness assessments are available, how many health professionals provide them? (Approx. number OK)

2

36. If hormone readiness assessments are available, is RLE required?

No

37. If hormone readiness assessments are available, are there any specific public insurance requirements?

No

38. If hormones readiness assessments are available, who provides them?

Psychiatrist?

GPs

Referrals to the endocrinologist have come from myself, other psychiatrists and family doctors. There is no formalized identified clinic/individual that the trans patient must go through either from the government perspective or the endocrinologist, although I know that the endocrinologist needs to be assured that a mental health professional is involved and agrees.

39. Are SRS readiness assessments provided?

Yes

40. If SRS readiness assessments are available, are they provided in

Urban Setting?

41. If SRS readiness assessments are available, what is the protocol used?

WPATH SOC7

42. If SRS readiness assessments are available, how many health professionals provide them? (Approx. number OK)

2

43. If SRS readiness assessments are available, is RLE required?

Yes

44. If SRS readiness assessments are available, are there any specific public insurance requirements?

I am not sure what this means but the government accepts only support from the CAMH clinic in Toronto and their guidelines if they are going to provide some funding.

45. If SRS readiness assessments are available, who provides them?

Psychologist?

Psychiatrist?

46. Are there trans peer support groups in your province?

Yes

both online (TransSak) and drop-in at the Avenue Community Centre (GLBT resource and support centre in Saskatoon) and on campus at the Pride Centre.

47. Are these support groups professionally led or volunteer (non-professionally) led?

	Yes	No
Professionals	X	
Volunteers	X	

If yes, please share the name/s of the group/s and their contact info/website:

48. Are there support groups for gender independent (gender non-conforming) youth?

I regret I do not know a great deal about this, but I believe youth could access supports from the groups noted above

49. Are these support groups professionally led or volunteer (non-professionally) led?

No Response

50. Are there support groups for gender independent (gender non-conforming) children?

No

Not to my knowledge

51. Are these support groups professionally led or volunteer (non-professionally) led?

No Response

52. Is there support for families and loved ones?

No

Could get some support from resources above, but not an organized support group for families/loved ones

53. Are these support groups professionally led or volunteer (non-professionally) led?

No Response

54. Are there advocacy groups for trans human rights In your province?

	Yes	No
Grassroots organizations	X	

Lawyers organizations

If yes, please share the name/s of the group/s and their contact info/website: TransSask online Avenue Community Centre They may be aware of others

55. Do you have any more comments?

As a general summation, things are largely unchanged from my previous reports. We do not have an organized or identified individual or clinic to provide health care. Most trans people are ultimately referred to psychiatrists in order to proceed with hormones and transitioning. For a large percentage, that psychiatrist would be me, but individuals do not need to go through me and could see any psychiatrist. There are social workers, psychologists and counsellor who see trans individuals, couples and families, but again it is not formalized. Some mental health individuals have a bit more of an interest in this area and may have a few more patients than others.

56. Is there trans Human Rights legislation being proposed?

No Response

57. Does your Education Ministry have LGBT anti-bullying policies in public schools?

No Response

58. Is there legislation that does not follow WPATH SOC v.7 being proposed?

No Response

59. Can FTM have the sex marker on their birth certificate changed?

Yes

Post reassignment surgery

60. Can MTF have the sex marker on their birth certificate changed?

Yes

Post reassignment surgery

61. Can FTM change the sex marker on their driver's license?

Yes

Nothing formalized. I believe this is being examined to try and standardize but cannot absolutely speak to this.

62. Can MTF change the sex marker on their driver's license?

Yes

63. Do you have an positive and ongoing relationship with "political" allies in your provincial legislature?

No Response

64. Is there other information and data you would have liked to see in this survey? If so, please share:

No Response

[Empty text box for response]

65. What are you doing in your province that is successful?

I am not sure. I believe that even though we do not have a formalized clinic or identified path of healthcare providers, most physicians are fairly open or willing to learn about trans health for their patients. I believe we have a handful of physicians, specialists, mental health professionals and volunteers who have provided quality and ongoing care without it being formalized. All the health care professionals continue to have busy practices also seeing other patient concerns, but have been open to become involved and provide expertise for trans individuals no differently than any other referral/concern.

66. What are the next steps in expanding accessible competent trans health care in your province?

I am hopeful that in the future there might be someone with the energy and motivation to create more of a network of interested trans professionals, probably in a more casual way. I am not sure if there will eventually be interest in formally identifying professionals and creating a team for trans people; I am just gratified that more docs and mental health professionals have openness and willingness to learn trans health should they see someone in their practice with trans needs. I will continue to encourage interest of trans health in residents and medical students. I anticipate that I will be dramatically pulling back on my acceptance of new referrals in the very near future, and so I also believe that in services and practical workshops for family doctors and mental health professionals could be invaluable to meet the increasing need of these services.