

A learning health system in Northwestern Ontario: a case study in cancer screening improvement

Brianne Wood, PhD (bwood@nosm.ca)

Paige Stevenson,

Roya Daneshmand, PhD

Barbara Zelek, MD

Trillium Health Partners Research Day
October 13, 2023



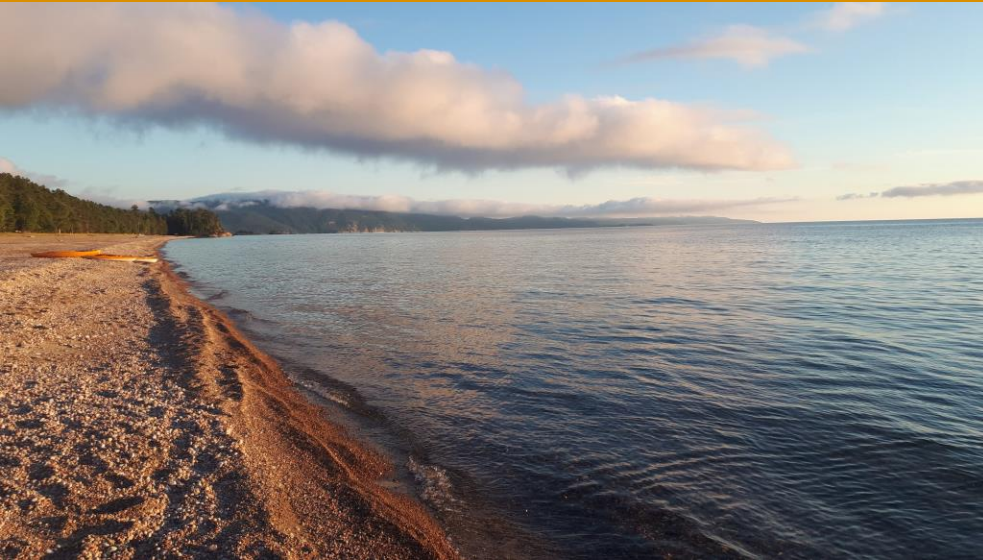
@briannejw0_



Brianne Wood



Overview



Context and motivation.



Timeline and approach.



Findings and next steps.

Northwestern Ontario (primary) health care

Patients HAVE to travel (and pay)

Hub-and-spoke models, mobile approaches

Rural generalism applies to everyone



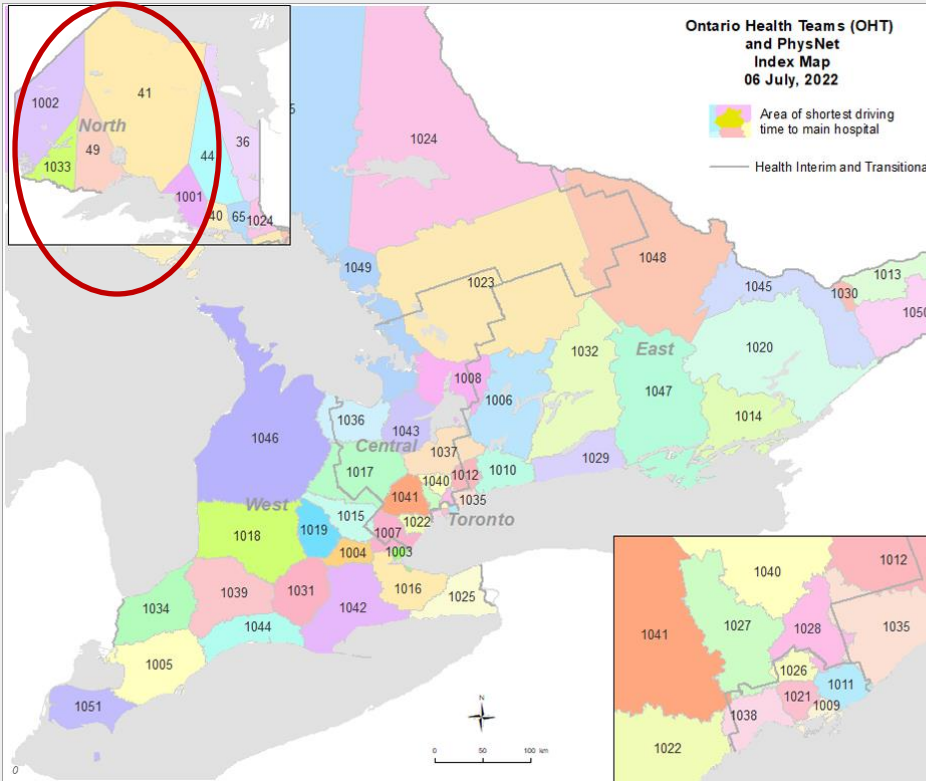
Northwestern Ontario OHTs

Kiiwetinoong Healing Waters OHT

All Nations Health Partners OHT

Rainy River District OHT

Noojmowing Sooktagiing OHT



“Cancer screening across the COVID-19 timeline”

Shared priority

Clinicians, communities, patients,
administrators

A known local challenge

COVID-19 affected normal health promotion programs;;
communities closed their “doors” to visitors; multiple
players...

Accountability

cQIP indicator for OHTs

Timeline



Timeline

Team-based OHT
Impact fellowship
with RRD and ANHP

"Learning health
system framework
for Northwestern
OHTs

Our team joined as
RISE partner

2021

Kenora primary care
clinicians partners
with NORTHH
researchers in local
grant opportunity

2022

Brought together
partners to refine
questions, determine
collective action
*Attempted EMR
analysis

2023

Kenora superstar-
turned-NOSM-
student conducted
interviews with key
informants

...

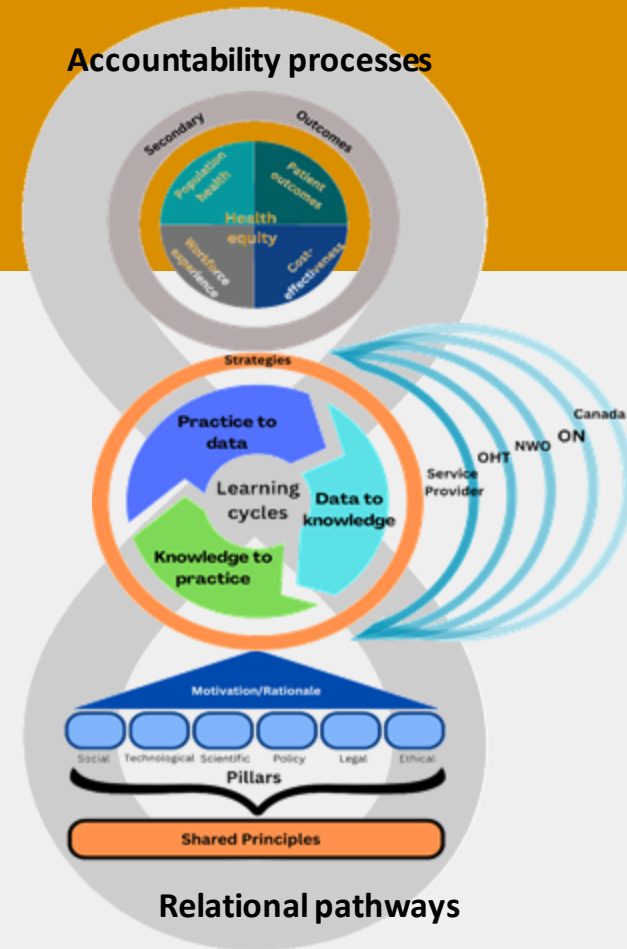
Validating
recommendations,
considering tests of
change, jamboree
for data analytic
supports

Northwestern OHT Learning Health System

Goal: Specify a framework that describes data and supporting platform for regionally and locally integrated health system planning.

Important takeaway #1 Priorities, care models, patient access are determined locally (sub-OHT), and geographically based. Many performance/quality measures are urban-centric.

Important takeaway #2 Lack of clear data and knowledge governance structures. Trust among partners and clear rationale for data collection, use, and access is important.



Cancer screening in All Nations Health Partners

How to use population-based
data to improve participation
opportunities for cancer
screening in primary health care?



Approach

For a full interpretation of the project, check out **Paige Stevenson's** poster in Provincial South "Primary health care utilization in All Nations Health Partners Ontario Health Team: Assessing preventative services, COVID-19 impacts and recommendations for improving access"

Semi-structured interviews

Started with OHT and project clinical leads, and snowball sampling

LHS framework

Used codes and concepts to help interpret the rich data

Also inductively identified codes

Bi-weekly team analysis

Monthly (or more regular) check-ins with OHT partners

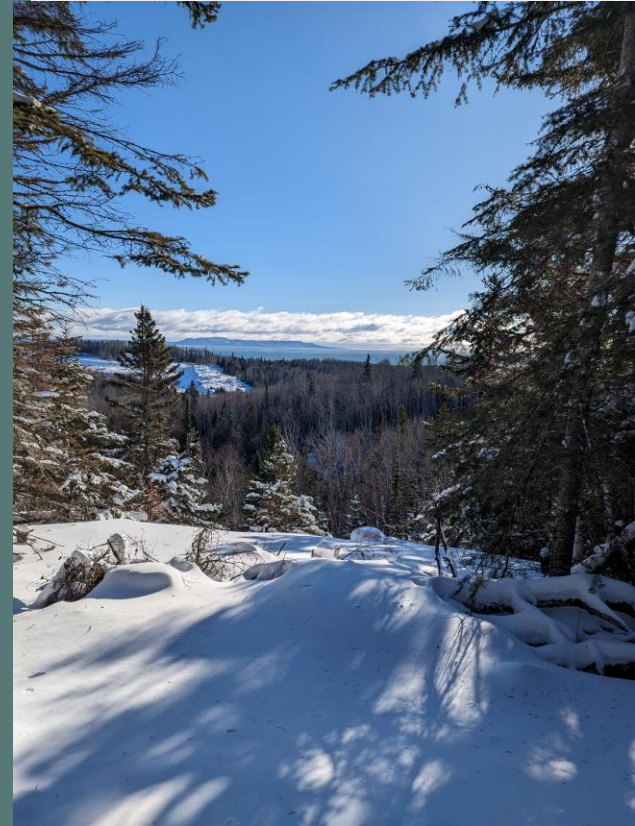
Findings

Data and knowledge moving between scales of the system (provider->organization->OHT->region-province-federal)

Challenges in each of the learning cycles:

- 1) Practice to data
- 2) Data to knowledge
- 3) Knowledge to action

Trust, governance, and accountability



Start small

Report back to ANHP;
leverage “One Record”
transformation

Where do we go from here?

Continue building trust and communicating

Across scales of
learning health
systems

Amplify Northern expertise, experience, strengths

Contextualize OHT priorities,
approaches, and measures

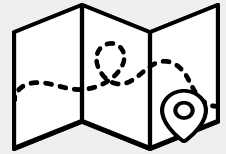
Final takeaways



**Relationships and trust
are intimately linked
with system learning**



**Need to examine the
embedded nature of
learning health
systems, and their
interactions**



**Contextualized vs
standardized: how do
we value different
priorities? Ways of
knowing?**

Thank you

Paige Stevenson, Dr. Roya Daneshmand,
Dr. Barbara Zelek

Dr. Jillie Retson, Dr. Zahra Jaffer, Colleen
Neil, Melonie Young



This project was funded by a NOAMA
AFP Innovation grant A22-11, and
through Dr. Wood's Health Systems
Resilience Fellowship



Thunder Bay Regional
Health Research
Institute



NOSM
UNIVERSITY



DR. GILLES ARCAND
CENTRE FOR HEALTH EQUITY



ALL NATIONS
HEALTH PARTNERS

