

Human Services Integration Forum (HSIF)/Regional Intersectoral Committees (RICs)

1. History of Service Integration

1.1 What is the history of service integration in Saskatchewan?

Service Integration in Saskatchewan has a relatively short but remarkable history in its development over the past 20 years. At the provincial level, service integration was led by the establishment of a provincial forum intitled “Assistant/Associate Deputy Ministers Forum (ADM’s Forum)” which was restructured in 2000 to become the “Human Services Integration Forum”.

1.2 What are the key events around the beginning of service integration in Saskatchewan?

Service Integration had its early beginnings with the Family Foundation followed by the publication of Saskatchewan’s Action Plan for Children, a foundational work for service integration in the province. Guiding documents for the development of service integration were a number of Human Services Handbooks (i.e.) “Working Together” and Integrated Case Management”.

**** [Link to Timeline](#)*

2. Human Service Integration

2.1 What is Service Integration?

Service integration is any approach to providing services to the public that streamlines and simplifies client access and bridges traditional organizational or program boundaries.

2.2 What is the Human Service Integration Forum?

The Human Service Integration Forum (HISC) leads provincial intersectoral among the human service sectors. The HSIF is senior government representing the Ministries of Education; Justice and Attorney General; Health; Social Services; First Nations and Metis Relations; Tourism, Parks, Culture and Sport; Corrections, Public Safety and Policing, plus Executive Council. This work is supported by an Executive Director who provides liaison, policy analysis and strategic advice to the HSIF and the Regional Intersectoral Committees.

2.3 What is the role of the Executive Director of the Human Services Integration Forum (HSIF)?

Reporting to the Human Service Integration Forum and working with regional intersectoral committees and

coordinators, the Executive Director oversees the development, implementation, evaluation and accountability of intersectoral policy initiatives as they relate to the HSIF goals and objectives.

2.4 What is the fundamental basis for Human Service Integration in Saskatchewan?

The basis for the integration of human services exists in the policy statements in various documents within many departments most notable the interdepartmental creation of the HSIF series: Working Together (1996); Interagency Projects: An evaluation guide (1997); Sharing The Vision states: Saskatchewan's human services are innovative, responsive and effective and contribute to the well-being of all Saskatchewan people. They address the needs of the most vulnerable and strengthen individuals, families and communities.

2.5 How is Service Integration supported in Saskatchewan?

The provincial Human Services Integration Forum (HSIF) and the Regional Intersectoral Committees (RICs) work in partnership with community to respond to the diverse needs of the people served.

3. Regional Intersectoral Committees

3.1 What are Regional Intersectoral Committees (RICs)?

The ten (10) Regional Intersectoral Committees (RICs), each supported by a RIC coordinator, are located throughout the province of Saskatchewan and linked to the Human Service Integration Forum (HSIF). The RICs provide a forum and coordinating link for human service leaders within a designated region to develop and communicate indicators, shared priorities, evaluation frameworks and outcomes. The RICs are as follows: Northern Human Services Partnership (LaRonge), Northeast (Melfort) Prince Albert RIC, Saskatoon RIC, Northwest RIC (North Battleford), Southeast RIC (Yorkton), Regina RIC, Moose Jaw — South Central RIC, Southwest RIC (Swift Current) and West Central RIC (Swift Current).

3.2 What are the roles of the Regional Intersectoral Committee (RIC) Coordinators?

Under the direction of the Regional Intersectoral Committee with guidance from the Executive Director, Human Services Integration Forum (HSIF), the position is responsible for development and implementing intersectoral human services integration strategies, programs and projects, alternate service delivery models, and leading

community capacity building initiatives. The overall focus of the work within the position is carried out based on the policy priorities of the HSIF Steering committee as approved by the Associate/Assistant Deputy Ministers of the four funding departments (Health, Education, Social Services, Justice and Attorney General). The Coordinator must also balance the needs of the regional managers of participating Ministries, of district agencies such as health regions, school divisions and community based organizations.

4. Regional Intersectoral Committee Coordinators Team (RICCT)

4.1 What is the role of the Regional Intersectoral Committee Coordinator's Team (RICCT)?

Membership of the RICCT consists of nine Regional Intersectoral Committee (RIC) Coordinators and the Executive Director of the Human Services Integration Forum. For the purpose of RICCT, the Regional Intersectoral Committee Coordinators function as a primary link to the human service leaders in the regions. The Executive Director functions as the primary link to the provincial human service ministries.

4.2 What is the role of the Regional Intersectoral Committee Coordinators Team (RICCT)?

The role of the RICCT is to review and interpret priorities, (established by the steering committee of the HSIF), with a view to linking these priorities to regional and local priorities, plans and initiatives; to serve as a collective reference and support group for the individual work of Regional Coordinators through sharing of information, resources, and strategies; to represent regional and local interests to the HSIF steering committee as well as project committees or support teams as required; to link with project committees and support teams as required to facilitate regional and local planning; to assist in the planning of semi-annual forums for the HSIF and to represent collectively, or by delegation, a regional planning perspective at provincial policy and planning discussions of the human service departments and agencies.

5. Priorities for Human Service Integration

5.1 What are the provincial priorities for human service integration in Saskatchewan?

The provincial priorities have been identified as follows:

- 1) Strong and healthy children and families
- 2) Safe, inclusive and healthy communities
- 3) High standard of public accountability, transparency and governance for the work of human service integration.

5.2 How do RICs and HSIF align to advance shared priorities?

Regions within the province vary in geographical size, population density and demographic needs. Issues and challenges reflect the differences within the province. However, although methods and strategies may vary from one region to the next, all RICs share the same priorities with the Human Service Integration Forum. The regional and provincial bodies work in a coordinated fashion using strong communication tools to respond to these shared priorities.

6. Funding

6.1 How is the HSIF and RIC work funded?

The HSIF central support and the RIC committees receive funding from four contributing ministries: Education, Health, Justice and the Attorney General, and Social Services which allows for central support and nine RIC

coordinators to be hired and supported. Regional contributions to this work vary but include financial, human and in-kind contributions such as office space and technology and are very important in solidifying the regional-provincial nature of the partnership.

6.2 What additional funding is available to support integrated services work in Saskatchewan?

There is growing recognition of the value of integration as learned through responsive programs and services that are funded by coherent resources from the communities, the regions, the province and the country. Collaboration including planning together and sharing of resources is a way of achieving outcomes that could not have been achieved by one agency/sector.

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RIC CONTACT INFORMATION

[RIC Chairpersons \(PDF 87.1 KB\)](#)

[RIC Coordinators \(PDF 28.2 KB\)](#)

