

PICNet's Role in British Columbia's COVID-19 Pandemic Response

Lunch and Learn Sessions: COVID-19 Reflections

Tara Donovan, Network Director

May 13 2021

What is PICNet?



- PICNet is a provincial health improvement network (HIN) within PHSA (Executive Leader, Dr. Maureen O'Donnell, Executive Vice President Clinical Policy, Planning and Partnerships)
- Connect healthcare professionals province-wide from across the continuum of care
- Create guidelines, tools and education resources using evidence-based practice
- Develop and monitor provincial surveillance programs for healthcare-associated infections and performance measurements (e.g. hand cleaning compliance)

PICNet

PROVINCIAL INFECTION CONTROL
NETWORK OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

A program of the Provincial Health Services Authority



**Provincial Health
Services Authority**

Province-wide solutions.
Better health.

Who we are



Dr. Linda Hoang
Medical Co-Director



Dr. Titus Wong
Medical Co-Director



Tara Donovan
Network Director



Leslie Forrester
IPAC Leader, Consultant



Noorsallah Esmail
Education and
Practice Coordinator



Ka Wai Leung
Education and
Practice Coordinator



Guanghong Han
Surveillance
Epidemiologist

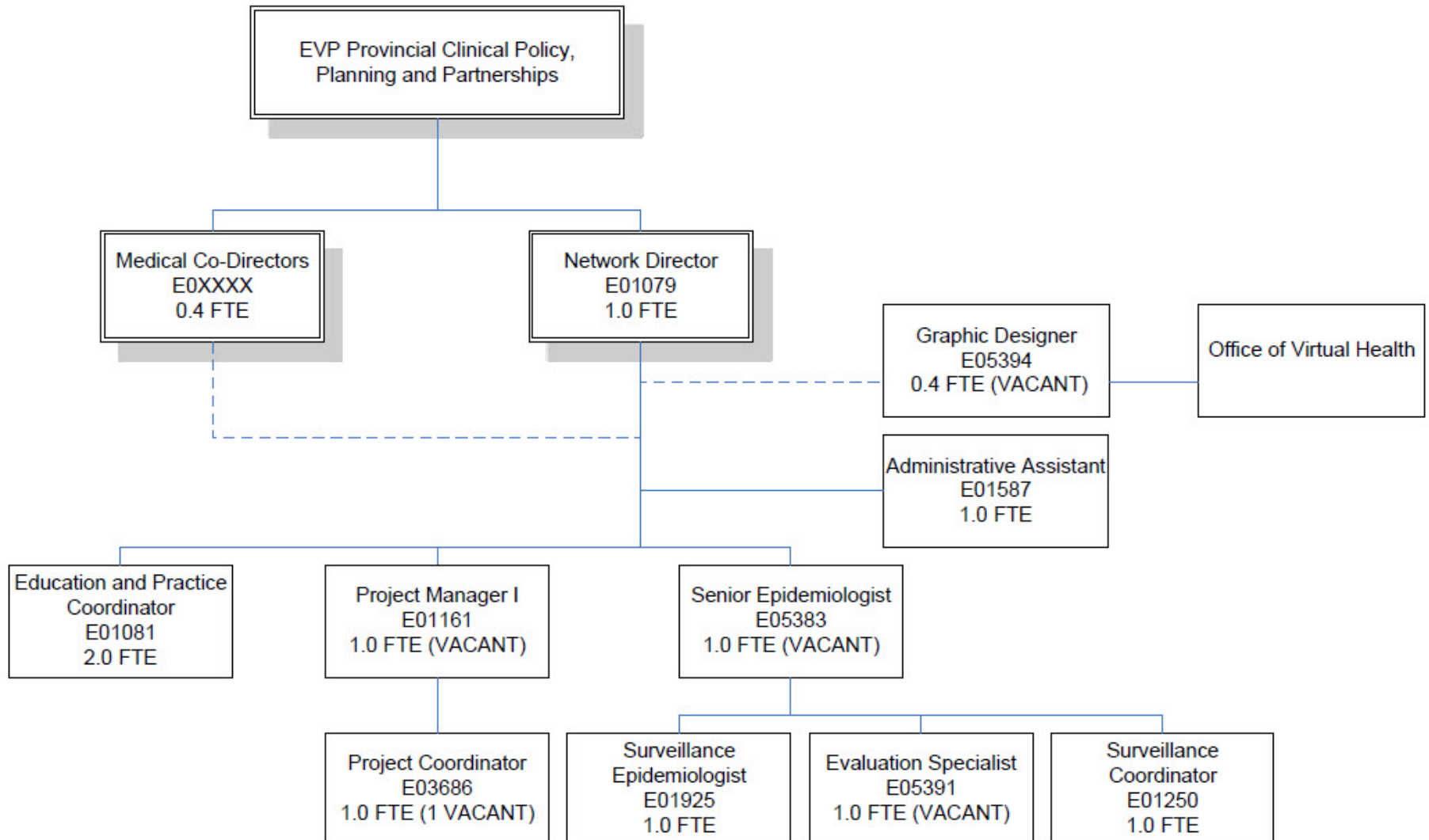


Romi Ranasinghe
Surveillance
Analyst



Andrea Vu-Tran
Administrative
Assistant

PICNet Team Expansion: Organizational Chart



The Early Days of the Pandemic... PICNet's Call-to-Action

- **PICNet gathered regional health authority IPC leadership to communicate and collaborate on infection prevention and control practices (Jan 21 2020)**
- PICNet released 2019-nCoV memo (Jan 24 2020)
- Dr. Bonnie Henry advised PICNet, Ministry of Health and Workplace Health and Safety to form a Provincial IPAC/WHS Task Group to coordinate a provincial pandemic response for all healthcare settings (Jan 27 2020)



PICNet's role in B.C.'s response to COVID-19

Integral role in leading and coordinating BC's pandemic response for IPC in healthcare settings

- Done in partnership with the Ministry of Health, regional health authorities, BCCDC, Public Health, College of Physicians and Surgeons of BC and others as required
- Co-chair the COVID-19 Infection Prevention and Control/Workplace Health & Safety Task Group
- Chair the Aerosol Generating Medical Procedures (AGMP) Expert Group
- Active members of the Public Health Reference Group (PHRG) and Clinical Reference Group (CRG)



PICNet's focus in the Provincial COVID-19 Pandemic Response

- Develop evidence-informed, standardized, provincial guidelines and resources for infection prevention and control
- Stay apprised of emerging information/evidence by conducting critical appraisals and evidence reviews to inform guidelines, response docs, etc.
- Provide and facilitate educational and knowledge sharing opportunities (e.g. Webber teleclasses, Learning Bursts, Lunch & Learn sessions)



PICNet's approach - Engagement & Partnership

Example: address Variants of Concern

- Conducted literature search/ jurisdictional scan
- Rapid coordination with all regional health authority IPC leadership
- Forum for sharing experience, knowledge and expertise
- Led collaborative discussion to form agreements that determined provincial guidance
- Result: [Infection Prevention and Control Guidance on SARS-CoV-2 Variants of Concern](#)



PICNet's COVID-19 Provincial Pandemic Response Activities

<p>Provincial Statements: Evidence Reviews and Responses</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provincial support for using reusable gowns for infection prevention and control (IPAC) purposes • Position statement to address double masking and recommendations for medical masks in health care settings • Alcohol based hand rub use among children under two years old (SBAR) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statement on lancet article on physical distancing, face masks and eye protection • Infection Prevention and Control Guidance on SARS-CoV-2 Variants of Concern • Risk of SARS-CoV-2 aerosol transmission in health care settings
<p>Resource Materials</p>	<p>Posters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Front entrance health care settings • Hand hygiene • PPE donning • PPE doffing • How to wear a surgical mask • Appropriate PPE sheet 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Screening Algorithms for various Health Care settings • Outbreak signage for various health care settings/scenarios • Aerosol generating medical procedures for suspect and confirmed COVID-19 • PPE audit tool • Healthcare-associated case definitions

PICNet's COVID-19 Provincial Pandemic Response Activities

Guidance Documents (created or supported)

- IPC protocol for surgical procedures
- Discontinuation of precautions in acute care
- Health care worker exposures risk assessment tool
- Health care worker return to work guidance
- IPC guidance for client transportation services (non-BCEHS vehicles)
- Options for operating room configuration...
- Provincial guidance for reusing pumps for Microsan® alcohol based hand rub
- IPC guidance for testing and assessment centres
- IPC guidance for BC emergency health services
- Guidance for handling deceased persons
- IPC guidance for long-term care and assisted living facilities
- IPC guidance from home and community health care
- COVID-19 guidance for community and hospital pharmacies
- Respiratory protection for health care workers caring for potential or confirmed COVID-19 patients
- Acute care guidance and screening processes
- Environmental cleaning and disinfectants for clinic settings
- Environmental cleaning and disinfectants for public settings
- Aerosol generating medical procedures (V1 and V2)

In addition, PICNet has reviewed and provided feedback to more than 75 Provincial COVID-19 clinical and public health guidelines and resources for the pandemic response (examples: [guidelines for intubation](#), [PPE recommendations](#), [code blue protocol](#), [How it Spreads](#), [Self-Isolation](#), etc.)

What did we learn?

- The pandemic highlighted existing connections and partnerships within the province, plus fostered new connections
- Our partnerships and community of practice engagement and collaboration were fundamental to our shared successes
- Reviewing evidence, collective/shared knowledge, experience and insights of others within BC and beyond, and local epidemiology were key to understanding and preventing infections

Acknowledgements

- PICNet team
- Ministry of Health
- Regional health authority partners: IPC, WHS, Public Health
- BCCDC
- PHSA Executive Leadership
- College of Physicians and Surgeons, College of Pharmacists, Doctors of BC, many more...



Comments and Questions

???