



March 30, 2021

STEVE NORN
MLA, TU NEDHE WIILIDEH

Oral Question 509-19(2): Mental Health

This letter is in follow up to the Oral Question you raised on February 5, 2021 regarding Mental Health.

First, I would like to clarify a statement I made in the House regarding resident counsellors in your constituency. Łutsel K'e does in fact have an indeterminate Mental Health Counsellor who lives in the community. The counsellor position in Fort Resolution is vacant and therefore a counsellor flies in to provide services.

Due to the pandemic, Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) cannot be delivered in person as it was in the past. The Northwest Territories Health and Social Services Authority (NTHSSA) is accessing virtual MHFA training for its staff and Non-Government Organization partners. The NTHSSA is also exploring options for coordination of delivery to members of the general public, particularly those who may not have access to technology needed to take the course in its virtual format.

To your question about wait times for specialized mental health services, referrals for new psychiatry appointments are currently triaged and prioritized based on urgency. Urgent clients have received appointments in 1-2 weeks, with a standard wait time of 4-6 weeks for other referrals.

Thank you.

Julie Green
Minister of Health and Social Services

c Clerk of the Legislative Assembly

Legislative Coordinator
Department of Executive and Indigenous Affairs