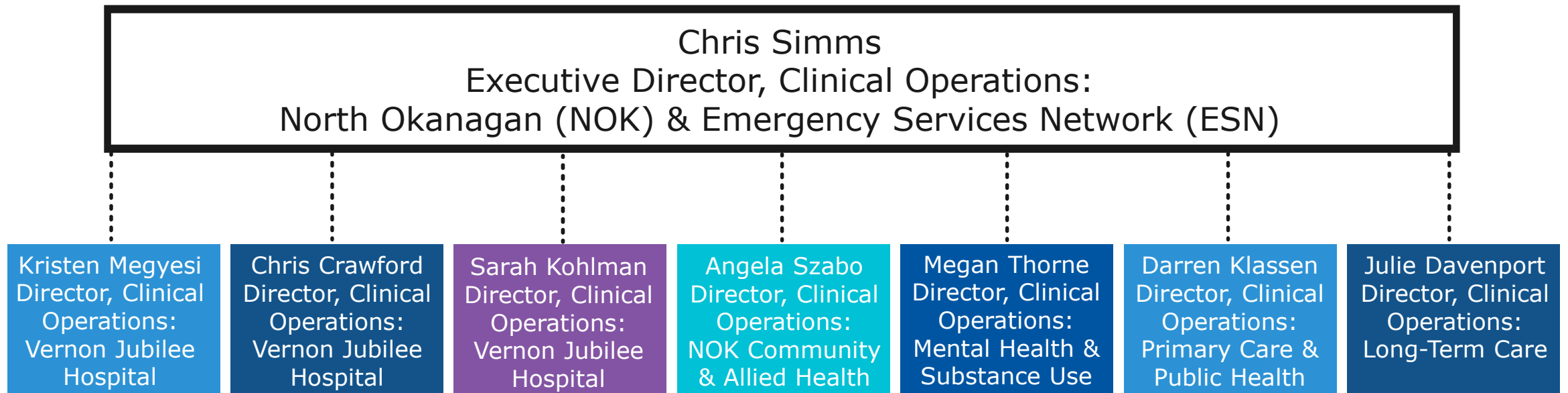




Primary Care & Public Health Updates

Vernon City Council
June 9, 2025

Leadership in Vernon



Introductions

Tracey Kirkman Executive Director, Shuswap North Okanagan Division of Family Practice

Darren Klassen Director, Clinical Operations, Primary Care & Public Health, IHA

Dr. Jonathan Malo Medical Health Officer, IHA

Chris Simms Executive Director, Clinical Operations, IHA

Primary Care Agenda

Objective	Strategies
Patient Attachment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provider Retention and Recruitment• Primary Care Network Contracts
Team Based Care	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Primary Care Network Teams
Same Day Access	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• After-hours phone line• Vernon UPCCs

Physician Numbers and Recruitment Efforts

- Currently: 58 Family Physicians
- 4 new recruits in 2024-2025 (2 from UK)
- Maintaining numbers given pending retirements
- Support from pharmacists
- Regional Interior Recruitment working group
- Kamloops and Colwood models to support physician recruitment

North Okanagan Family Practice Residency

- Physicians stay where they train
- Welcomed first 4 residents June 2024
- Collaboration with Community Futures: Murphy's Landing
- 3 out of the 4 residents plan to stay in the community
- Additional 4 residents in June 2025
- Very optimistic that the Residency program will be effective in recruiting and retaining family physicians

Nurse Practitioner Recruitment

- 7 Nurse Practitioners in Vernon provide Primary Care
- Attached over 4,000 patients
- Preventing patients from becoming orphaned as family physicians retire

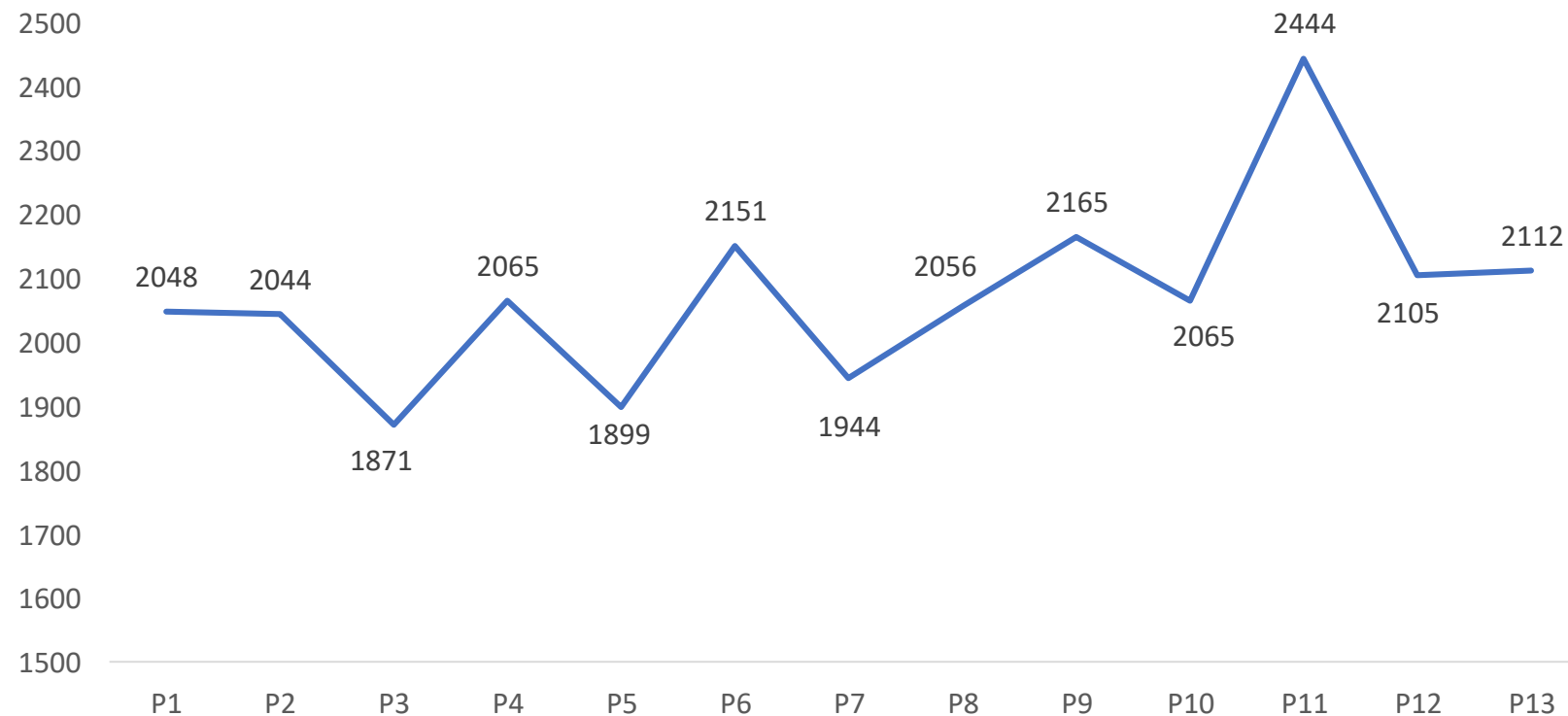
Primary Care Network Hub

- Officially opened in June 2024 at Vernon Health Centre
 - Care Coordinators
 - Pharmacist
 - Physiotherapists
 - Registered Clinical Counsellor
 - Registered Dietitian
 - Registered Nurses
 - Respiratory Therapist
 - Social Workers



Vernon Urgent & Primary Care Centre (UPCC)

- Attached >2,300 patients & averaging 73 patient encounters per day



2nd Vernon Urgent & Primary Care Centre (UPCC)

Current Vernon UPCC	2 nd Planned Vernon UPCC
Episodic & Longitudinal care	Episodic care only
Low barrier access for vulnerable patients	Access to episodic care for all
Currently Open	In Progress

Updates since walk-in clinic closures

- Care Connect IDA Pharmacy Walk-in Clinic opened
- After Hours Phone Line
- Vernon Primary Care Network Hub opened
- 2nd Vernon Urgent and Primary Care Centre was approved
- 570 patients have been attached from the Health Connect Registry (September 2024 – April 2025)

Medical Health Officer update



Health and well-being for all
Quality | Integrity | Compassion | Safety

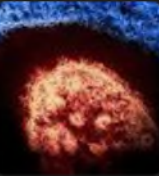
Measles update

- Increasing infections across Canada, with some now in BC (none yet in Interior Health)
- Actively promoting and reaching out to families of children who are not up to date with measles vaccinations
- Extra immunization clinics at Vernon Health Centre
- Vernon measles vaccination rate
 - 2-year-olds: ~76%
 - 7-year-olds: ~64%



New measles case confirmed in B.C.'s Lower Mainland

A new case of travel-related measles has been confirmed in B.C.'s Lower Mainland, bringing the total number of confirmed cases in the province...



Exposure locations

This list includes known exposure locations where public health is unable to identify and contact everyone who may have been exposed. If you may have been exposed, monitor for [symptoms of measles](#). People who are most at risk of infection are those who are completely unvaccinated against the disease, including children under one year of age.

Flights and airports



Health authorities

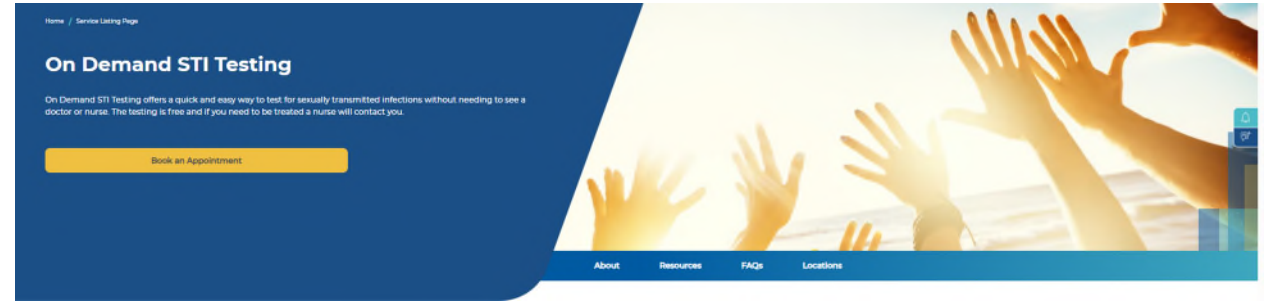


<http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/measles>



On Demand STI Testing Program

- Patients can receive STI testing (chlamydia, gonorrhea, syphilis, and HIV) without needing to see a healthcare provider
- Expanded to Vernon on June 1st
 - Interior Health Lab at Vernon Jubilee Hospital
 - Dynacare labs
 - 30th Avenue
 - Anderson Way



<https://www.interiorhealth.ca/services/on-demand-sti-testing>



Questions?