

# Wawokiya Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) Sheet

## **What is Wawokiya and what does it do?**

Wawokiya is a project that evolved from the Portage la Prairie Hub project. Previously service providers met to assess acutely elevated risk referrals and offer them appropriate supports. This Wawokiya project was born out of the hub to provide ongoing support for up to twelve months.

The Wawokiya Table and Wawokiya Support Teams mobilize and coordinate existing resources across sectors to give individuals/families the support they need so they can prevent and permanently stabilize crisis situations.

## **Who can I refer to the Wawokiya Project?**

- You can refer an individual/family if:
- They access services within Portage la Prairie
- There are escalating safety concerns – if something doesn't change soon, someone might get hurt, arrested, become homeless, or a child might be apprehended
- They are isolated/not connected to any services and could benefit from some support

## **Wawokiya considers the following as priorities:**

- The individual/family is willing to engage and ready for change
- There are significant risk factors that could potentially threaten community safety and/or individual/family welling-being

There are no restrictions based on age, family size, or ethnicity.

If you are unsure about a referral, you can tell the Wawokiya Project (contact information at the end of this document) or the Wawokiya member who represents your organization.

## **What should I consider before I refer?**

Before referring an individual/family, ask yourself:

- Is the individual/family involved in more than one system and experiencing barriers?
- Could the individual/family benefit from communication/collaboration between systems/services?
- Have you and your agency tried to support the individual/family and work through barriers to the best of your ability?
- Would your organization benefit from working collaboratively with other services?

If you can answer yes to one or more of these questions you are encouraged to refer the individual/family.

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## How do I refer?

You can refer an individual/family by contacting the Wawokiya Coordinator (contact information at the end of document) to discuss and work through the referral form.

## How long after I refer an individual/family, will they receive support?

Wawokiya tries to review referrals and determine if they are a fit within 1 week. The process from referral to the first support team meeting may take from 2 to 5 weeks depending on how long it takes to engage the individual/family and connect resources, but involved agencies may begin working on identified action items before this meeting.

## What if this is an emergency?

Wawokiya addresses escalating safety concerns but it is NOT an emergency crisis response service. If there are immediate safety concerns (i.e. an individual or a child will be harmed if action doesn't occur immediately) you should follow your agencies protocol for dealing with the situation. The individual/family can be referred once the situation is stabilized.

## What does the Wawokiya Table do?

The Wawokiya table meets twice a month is responsible for:

- Holding system mobilization and resource discussions, based on the individual/family's identified goals. Discussions include:
  - Recommending programs, supports or strategies to assist the individual/family overcome the identified system barrier.
  - Recommending support team members to assist the individual/family in reaching their goals.
- Identifying community trends, policy and system barriers to be addressed by the Systems Leadership Committee.

## Who are the Wawokiya Members:

Wawokiya members represent the collaborative partner organizations, including:

Addictions Foundation of Manitoba	Michif Child & Family Services
Canadian Mental Health Association	Portage la Prairie School Division
Child & Family Services of Central Manitoba	Probation Services
Community Connections Outreach Centre	Royal Canadian Mounted Police
Dakota Ojibway Child & Family Services	Southern Health-Santé Sud
Department of Families	Youth for Christ
Manitoba Housing	

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## **What about confidentiality and information sharing policies?**

Wawokiya members all sign an Information Sharing Agreement that commits them to only sharing relevant information and keeping the information heard at the meetings confidential. Individuals/family engagement is at the core of the of the project. Individual/Families sign a consent form allowing the Wawokiya table to gather and share relevant personal information to facilitate a system mobilization discussion for the purpose of helping the individual/family reach their goals.

Once the Wawokiya Support Team is in place, the individual/family signs a second consent form that allows the Support Team to share relevant information freely for the purpose of helping the individual/family reach their goals. If your agency or organizations is listed as a collaborating partner, your senior leadership has agreed to the privacy sharing agreement and staffs' ability to participate freely within these parameters.

## **What is the role of the Wawokiya Support Team?**

The Wawokiya Support team is a group of direct service workers from various agencies identified by the individual/family and the Wawokiya Table as important supports for the individual/family to reach their goals. The participating individual/family is an equal member of the Support Team. The Support Team is responsible for:

- Further developing and implementing the Action Plan
- Working together collaboratively with the individual/family
- Carry out action items identified by the team
- Providing updates to the Wawokiya member representing their agency and the Wawokiya coordinator as appropriate

## **What will the commitment be if I am asked to be on a Support Team?**

The commitment level is Support Team specific and based on the individual/family identified goals. Support team members are asked to attend meetings, develop action plans and carry out action items. The number of meetings, action items and length of time working together will be different for every Support Team.

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## **How is this project different?**

Wawokiya's collaboration crosses over sectors including mandated and community based services

Individuals/families are engaged throughout the process

Wawokiya addresses community safety by enhancing individual/family wellbeing

Wawokiya is designed to be sustainable by:

Building collaboration capacity within organizations and individuals/families.

Identifying System/Policy barriers to be filtered up to the System Leadership Table to advocate for change.

## **How do I get more information?**

For more information or to answer further questions you may have, please contact the Wawokiya Coordinator at the Portage la Prairie Community Revitalization Corporation.

Wawokiya Project

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