



Recovery Ecosystems

The following is a concept summary of the Recovery Ecosystem theory developed in partnership with TWC and Charitable Impact—it is 20 pages single-spaced and reduced to 4 pages.

Abstract: The theory presents a comprehensive proposal for establishing a Recovery Ecosystem in British Columbia aimed at addressing the pressing issues of addiction, mental health, and homelessness in rural communities. It outlines the concept of a Recovery Ecosystem as a network of interconnected services and resources that support individuals on their recovery journey, emphasizing the need for an inclusive approach that breaks down existing silos in social services. The report highlights the challenges faced by rural BC, including healthcare disparities and limited access to treatment, while advocating for a collaborative model that leverages philanthropic funding through a Cause Fund.

The proposed pilot project in B.C. seeks to validate the Recovery Ecosystem concept, demonstrating its potential to foster community engagement, improve service delivery, and ultimately enhance the well-being of individuals affected by addiction. By implementing this model, the project aims to create a sustainable support network that addresses immediate needs and promotes long-term recovery and social integration, serving as a potential blueprint for similar initiatives across British Columbia and beyond.

Recovery Ecosystem Approach: Community Recovery Networks is a comprehensive approach designed to support individuals in their recovery from addiction. It involves a technology-driven network of interconnected services and resources, addressing treatment and the social, economic, and environmental factors contributing to addiction. The Recovery Ecosystem aims to break down silos within social services, fostering collaboration among various service providers to create an inclusive, equitable, and effective system for those in need.

Key aspects of the Recovery Ecosystem include:

1. **Holistic Support:** It provides a wide range of social services based on Maslow's Hierarchy of needs. to address the various needs of individuals who are affected by substance and alcohol use disorder.
2. **Data-Driven Insights:** The ecosystem utilizes advanced data collection and analytics to measure the impact of services, helping to inform decisions and improve care delivery.
3. **Peer Support:** The ecosystem emphasizes the role of peer navigators who have lived experience with addiction, providing relatable support and practical assistance to those seeking help.
4. **Fund Allocation:** Technology-driven payment solution that is fair, equitable and inclusive of all regulated non-profits, governments and the private sector.
5. **Value-Based Care:** Healthcare delivery that prioritizes outcomes and overall quality of care, and the funding and resources are delivered to the individual, emphasizing real-time care coordination and the holistic needs of clients.
6. **Community Collaboration:** It seeks to engage local stakeholders and foster a sense of ownership within the community, allowing for tailored solutions that meet specific needs.

7. **Contingency Management:** The recovery Ecosystem aims to ensure that service users are incentivized to take steps toward recovery, reinforcing positive behaviour and engagement in their recovery journey.

Overcoming a Social Service Problem: The Recovery Ecosystem aims to address several interconnected problems related to addiction and mental health in a pilot project in B.C. The main issues include:

1. **Overdose Epidemic:** BC is experiencing a severe overdose epidemic, which has been ongoing for seven years, leading to significant impacts on mental health and contributing to homelessness.
2. **Siloed Social Services:** The social services systems operate in silos, with limited collaboration among agencies. This lack of coordination makes it challenging for individuals to navigate the available services. Many services remain unused, while other services have waitlists.
3. **Stigmatization and Discrimination:** Stigmatizing attitudes within systems and society lead to discrimination, unequal access to services for individuals, and unequal access to funding for qualified service providers.
4. **Funding Inefficiencies:** Government and philanthropic funding must effectively reach those in need, but resources are allocated based on organizational outcomes rather than the actual outcomes for service users.
5. **Healthcare Disparities in Rural BC:** Rural communities have long faced healthcare disparities and insufficient funding for services, exacerbating the challenges related to addiction recovery.
6. **Lack of Safe Recovery Spaces:** There is a significant shortage of safe, sober living spaces for individuals returning from treatment, which can contribute to relapse and fatalities.

The Recovery Ecosystem seeks to create an inclusive, collaborative model that addresses these issues by integrating various services and resources to support individuals on their recovery journey.

Value-Based Care: The funding model centers around the service user, with payments based on services delivered rather than predetermined packages. The service provider is paid based on its service delivery and the immediate needs of the individuals it serves.

Adapted Resource Sharing: Adapted resource-sharing organizations share their services directly with individuals in need. This approach is designed to break down traditional silos in service delivery, facilitating a more integrated and collaborative system that can respond effectively to the needs of service users. This method breaks down barriers caused by Money, Ego, and Turf (MET). It emphasizes client-centred care and service delivery efficiency by allowing for flexible and immediate responses to the needs of those seeking help.

Philanthropic Benefits: Philanthropists can benefit from supporting a Recovery Ecosystem in several ways:

1. **Direct Impact Measurement:** The proposed model emphasizes state-of-the-art outcomes measurement, allowing philanthropists to see the direct impact of their investments on individuals accessing services. This transparency can enhance the accountability of their contributions.
2. **Informed Giving:** Philanthropists will have access to data that indicates which services are being utilized and the outcomes achieved, enabling them to make informed decisions about where to direct their funds.
3. **Innovative Funding Model:** The model proposes a shift from traditional funding allocations to a more dynamic approach where philanthropic dollars flow directly to people and then to organizations, ensuring that funds are used effectively to meet real needs.

4. **Broader Reach:** The Recovery Ecosystem aims to expand services to underserved areas, thereby allowing philanthropists to support initiatives that have the potential to create a more significant societal impact and address systemic issues in addiction recovery.
5. **Sustainability and Scalability:** The project is designed to create sustainable solutions with the potential to be scaled to other communities, providing philanthropists with opportunities to be part of a larger movement towards social change.

A Recovery Ecosystem represents a strategic opportunity for philanthropists to contribute to a comprehensive, effective, and measurable solution to addiction and mental health issues in rural BC.

Pilot Project: The pilot will provide proof of concept. It will address the interconnected challenges of homelessness, crime, and addiction in B.C. by fostering collaboration among community stakeholders and implementing a community approach to individual and community recovery. A pilot project in B.C. is expected to provide several benefits, including:

1. **Validation of Assumptions:** The pilot will help confirm the Community Recovery Network's effectiveness assumptions and refine strategies based on real-world problems and user experiences.
2. **Identifying Issues Early:** By testing the concept on a smaller scale, potential issues can be identified before a full-scale rollout, minimizing investment risks.
3. **Resource Assessment:** The pilot will gauge the resources needed for a broader implementation, including time, budget, and personnel requirements.
4. **Scalability Insights:** The pilot can reveal how easily the project can be scaled to other communities, helping to justify and identify funding for larger implementations.
5. **Model for Other Communities:** B.C. could serve as a model for similar communities, showcasing effective strategies for addressing social service shortcomings and collaboration.
6. **Holistic Solutions:** The pilot aims to provide a comprehensive approach to mental health and addiction issues, which are currently interconnected challenges in the community.
7. **Stewardship:** The network will demonstrate to be a good steward of philanthropic investments.

TWC and Community Recovery Networks: The TWC experts will design the system and operate the pilot hub.

1. **Hub:** TWC operates a large hub and spoke model in BC in Vancouver, BC,
2. **Spokes:** TWC operates auxiliary programs (spokes) across Metro Vancouver, Surrey, Victoria, and Powell River, allowing for extensive service delivery and resource allocation
3. **Coordinated Services:** TWC services are proven to be coordinated efficiently.

There is a potential positive impact of the pilot project in addressing the pressing social service challenges in B.C. TWC should be considered to conduct the pilot project in B.C. for several reasons:

1. **Existing Relationships and Trust:** TWC and its associated programs, such as Miklat and McGuffey, are already well-known and trusted in the community. This existing rapport can facilitate faster development and acceptance of the Community Recovery Network.
2. **Sustainability:** TWC holds funding contracts with multiple government organizations, including Road To Recovery, Vancouver Coastal Health, and the Canadian Mental Health Association.
3. **Community Readiness and Support:** TWC is part of the B.C. tight-knit community with strong social ties, which can foster collaboration and support for new initiatives.
4. **Identified Need:** TWC has met with and discussed the challenges faced by the community and how they are linked to homelessness, crime, and addiction.

Stakeholder Engagement: Engaging with stakeholders during the pilot provides valuable insights and helps refine the project. This engagement can help identify bottlenecks and inefficiencies. Stakeholder engagement is a crucial aspect of the Recovery Ecosystem project, particularly in the context of the pilot project proposed for B.C. The document emphasizes the importance of involving various community stakeholders to ensure the project aligns with the needs and preferences of the local population. Key points regarding stakeholder engagement include:

1. **Advisory Board:** The Recovery Ecosystem Advisory is developed with credibility at the forefront. It comprises respected individuals who can boost credibility, visibility, and confidence among Cause Fund contributors.
2. **Engagement with Community Stakeholders:** Meetings with community stakeholders are essential to gathering insights and promoting the concept of the Community Recovery Network. This engagement facilitates quicker decision-making and the implementation of pilot projects 11.
3. **Collaboration with Local Organizations:** The document highlights the need for partnerships with established local non-profits and cooperation among regional organizations, healthcare providers, and community members to address mental health and addiction-related issues.
4. **Identifying Key Stakeholder Groups:** The report lists various stakeholder groups that are vital for the ecosystem, which includes prevention programs, intervention services, harm reduction, community mental health services, and employment training programs, among others.
5. **Building Trust and Relationships:** Since TWC and its programs are already well-known and trusted in the community, leveraging existing relationships can expedite the development of the Community Recovery Network.
6. **Feedback and Iteration:** Engaging with stakeholders during the pilot will provide valuable insights for refining the project and addressing real user experiences, thereby identifying and improving bottlenecks and inefficiencies.

In summary, stakeholder engagement fosters collaboration, gathers insights, and builds trust to create a Recovery Ecosystem that effectively meets the community's needs.

Notable Treatment Models: The Road to Recovery Program exemplifies a critical model of care that integrates intra-organizational programming with a limited group of external service providers. While it has achieved commendable outcomes, its scope is too narrow, excluding many community-based programs that could enhance client outcomes. The Recovery Ecosystem concept aims to create a more interconnected community that fosters sustainability, accountability, and collaboration among various entities, contrasting with traditional siloed approaches that operate in isolation.

The Commission of Drug Dissuasion in Portugal's model focuses on reducing criminal activity and promoting health. Instead of criminal sanctions, individuals are subjected to civil penalties and are referred to treatment options if they are identified as having addiction issues. While initially impactful, the model has faced criticisms for becoming outdated and needing more adequate funding to support its operations.

Both models highlight the importance of integrating services and addressing the broader social context of addiction to improve recovery outcomes.