

# Shared Care Support

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Bringing people together. Turning ideas into action.

# The Coordination & Capacity behind EK Shared Care Projects

The East Kootenay Division of Family Practice provides the local capacity and support that helps regional Shared Care projects move from ideas into action. Working alongside family physicians, specialists, Interior Health, Indigenous and community partners, and provincial Shared Care staff, the EK Division facilitates collaborative approaches to improving patient care and provider experience through:

- Identifying opportunities for regional health-care improvement.
- Building lasting partnerships by bringing the right people together.
- Project management to support initiatives from planning through implementation and final reporting.
- Partner engagement to encourage meaningful participation and collaboration.
- Communications to inform, engage, and share project progress and outcomes.
- Integration into the existing East Kootenay Continuing Professional Development Program.
- Evaluation and quality improvement to assess outcomes, identify opportunities for improvement, and inform practical solutions.
- Administrative support to coordinate project activities and keep initiatives moving forward.
- Supporting lasting change by sharing lessons learned and exploring opportunities to sustain, spread, or embed successful approaches into the health-care system.



# EK Shared Care Projects: *At a Glance*





# Menopause Care Project



## The East Kootenay Menopause Care Project

Aims to improve access to coordinated, evidence-informed and holistic menopause care across the region. By strengthening collaboration, care pathways, education and resources, the project will better equip family physicians and nurse practitioners to support patients through perimenopause and menopause. Ultimately, the project seeks to build a sustainable model of care that improves patient experience, supports health-care professionals, and strengthens menopause care across the East Kootenay.

**Timeline: Sept. 1, 2026 to Aug. 31, 2028**

### Physician Leads:

Dr. Sarah Crisp, Family Physician, Cranbrook

Dr. Corné Brink, Obstetrician and Gynecologist, Cranbrook

**EK Division Project Lead:** Caitlyn Flint



## Adult Mental Health & Substance Use



## Adult Mental Health & Substance Use

**Aim:** Enhanced Access to compassionate and evidenced mental health and substance use services in all East Kootenay communities by:

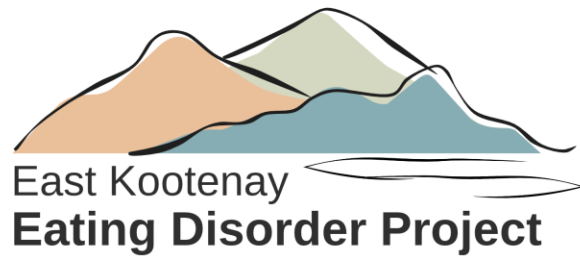
- Identifying barriers to accessing mental health and substance use services (Patient Survey July/August 2026, and Physician Survey July 2025)
- Improving communication amongst providers and care coordination (Counselling Maps, SU pathway, Educational events)
- Supporting the adoption of the SWITCH protocols and other evidenced informed treatment (SWITCH protocol presentations, BCCSU learning events)
- Implementation of strategies to remove stigma (education events, sharing patient survey results)
- Participating in quality improvement and advocacy

**Timeline: March 2025 to September 2027**

### Physician Leads:

Dr. Johnny Chang, Family Physician (Creston)  
Dr. JoyAnne Krupa, Family Physician (Invermere)

**EK Division Project Lead:** Micheline Nimmock



## The East Kootenay Eating Disorder Project

Aims to improve early intervention care and access for children and young people with eating disorders in the East Kootenay region. Anchored at Foundry East Kootenay, the project will explore and test a hybrid model of care adapted from national and international best practices, including FREED (First episode and Rapid Early intervention for Eating Disorders) among others. The focus of this model is on rapid access, youth-friendly services, and improved referral processes for individuals aged 12-24 experiencing symptoms of eating disorders for less than three years. During this project we will explore other models which may complement or enhance our existing services.

**Timeline: October 2025 to July 2027**

### Physician Leads:

Dr. Laura Swaney (Pediatrician - Cranbrook)  
Dr. Jade Jensen (Family Physician - Foundry)

**EK Division Project Lead:** Melanie Spring



## SCHOOL BASED HEALTH HUB



## School Based Health Hub

This project makes it easier for children and youth to access primary care by bringing medical care directly into local schools. School-Based Health Hubs at Selkirk Secondary School in Kimberley and Parkland Middle School in Cranbrook will provide students with an accessible, equitable, and youth-friendly pathway to care, with the goal of reducing barriers, supporting early intervention, improving the care experience, and helping to minimize school absenteeism and unnecessary emergency department use.

**Timeline: April 2026 to April 2028**

### Physician Leads:

Dr. Victoria Elliot, Family Physician (Kimberley)  
Dr. Annick Rodrigue, Family Physician (Kimberley)  
Dr. Laura Swaney, Pediatrician (Cranbrook)

**EK Division Project Leads: Jacqui van Zyl, Rachelle Robichaud**



East Kootenay  
C.A.R.E. Collaborative



## East Kootenay C.A.R.E. Collaborative (Comprehensive Approach to Reducing Emergency Room Transfers)

Aims to reduce inappropriate transfers (to be defined by a multidisciplinary group) from long term care (LTC) facilities in Kimberley and Cranbrook to the East Kootenay Regional Hospital Emergency Department by 30% within two years, benefiting residents of LTC in Kimberley and Cranbrook through demonstrably improved communication, coordination and after-hours support (as measured by C.A.R.E. team member surveys).

**Timeline: July 2026 to June 2028**

### Physician Leads:

Dr. Tasha Haiduk, MD, CCFP (EM), Cranbrook  
Dr. Sophia Bianchi, MD, CCFP (EM), Cranbrook

**EK Division Project Lead:** Elizabeth Matejka



## Golden Breastfeeding Support Initiative



## Golden Breastfeeding Support Initiative

By July 2027, the Golden Breastfeeding Support Initiative will support physicians with breastfeeding education and strengthen communication between Public Health and the Maternity Team. As our community adapts to a new clinic and the loss of local lactation consultation services, we aim to maintain our outstanding breastfeeding rates (94% at six weeks and 90% at six months) by supporting families (patient satisfaction surveys) and enhancing physicians' breastfeeding knowledge and troubleshooting skills.

**Timeline: October 2025 to September 2027**

**Physician Lead:** Dr. Virginia Clark, Family Physician (Golden)

**EK Division Project Lead:** Diane Turner



## Elk Valley Maternity Clinic



## Elk Valley Maternity Clinic

Aims to consolidate maternity care in the Elk Valley with one multidisciplinary team of maternity physicians, midwife, maternity nurses, and public health staff. The unique nature of the project is that maternity physicians and midwife travel to three different communities – Elkford UPCC, Sparwood Health Centre, and the Fernie Health Centre, to provide pre/postnatal care to patients, close to home.

**Timeline: July 2025 to July 2027**

### Physician Leads:

Dr. Kimberley Allan, CCFP(ESS) (Fernie)

Dr. Adriana Mejia-French, CCFP(OSS) (Fernie)

**EK Division Project Leads:** Kirstie Clarke & Caitlyn Flint



## PROactive SPecialist Engagement and Recruitment: a regional collaborative

Aims to develop a reliable, replicable, and data-informed strategy to identify existing and future gaps in regional specialties so that family physicians and specialists can collectively advocate for and attract new specialist positions within the East Kootenay. A PROSPER Working Group reviewed data reports and strategically open discussions on new or expanding specialist positions with Interior Health, specialists, and family physicians.

**Timeline: July 2024 to July 2027**

### Physician Leads:

Dr. Bill Brown, Invermere

Dr. Moninder Vaid, Cranbrook

**EK Division Project Lead:** Liz Fradgley



## EK Division's In-House Expertise and Support for Shared Care

### **Program Manager, Jacqui van Zyl**

- Scoping and developing new proposals
- Key connection with Shared Care Liaison
- Oversight and integration of Shared Care projects across the system and within other Division work and partnerships

### **Evaluation Lead, Liz Fradgley**

- Professional in-house evaluation support
- Developing and supporting implementation of evaluation plans

### **Communication Lead, Jody Jacob**

- Professional in-house communication and graphic design support
- Developing and supporting implementation of communication plans