

**NGIC Meeting: Ottawa, June 14-15, 2017**  
**Summary of Key Decisions & Next Steps**

**Overall Items**

- **Next NGIC Meeting**
  - Please hold **March 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>, 2018**, in Ottawa, for the next meeting.
  - A draft of the VEGA Practice Handbook/Toolkit “*Recognizing and Responding Safely to Family Violence*” (see below) will be presented and discussed. We’ll continue developing content and delivery methods for the VEGA Curriculum, and present a draft game module and whiteboard videos.
- **Detailed Meeting Notes & Small Group Discussion Input**
  - Were recorded and transcribed and are available by request. A summary of key feedback has been posted to the [NGIC area](#) of the VEGA website.
  - Have been incorporated into the draft Guidance for child maltreatment (CM) and in Curriculum planning.
- **Project Activity Updates & Knowledge Mobilization (KMob)**
  - Multiple methods are needed to disseminate information about VEGA to various audiences; the following are available on the website, or by request to VEGA:
    - text for insertion into member newsletters (sent to members via email; please also subscribe, and encourage colleagues to do so, to the [Newsletter](#) & Project Activities [blog](#) on the VEGA website);
    - [infographics](#), summaries, talking points and slides for use by members in presentations.
- **Patient/Client Voice**
  - Input from those with lived experience is crucial, and VEGA is committed to determining how (and when) to best integrate this, while avoiding tokenism. A new **Leader Table in Patient/Client Engagement**, to be led by Nadine Wathen, was formed at the meeting and is accepting members.
- **Preparing for Uptake**
  - To consider for the next meeting: preparing for **organizational endorsement** of VEGA products, including logo-sharing, quotes, and commentaries in professional publications.
  - VEGA is actively working with student representatives to ensure their needs, especially at the undergraduate/professional school level, are met – we will continue to include this perspective.

**Developing Practice Guidance – The VEGA Practice Handbook**

- VEGA’s main priority is improving providers’ recognition of, and initial response (including referral) to, those exposed to violence. Rather than ‘looking for disclosures’, the key goal is to create safe spaces to discuss violence and its impacts, and work on helpful follow-up options with clients. At the meeting:
  - Harriet MacMillan reviewed the concept of “identification” and noted the key differences between “universal screening” ([not supported by evidence](#)) and an approach based on safe and appropriate asking about violence experiences based on relevant signs and symptoms.
  - A key point to emphasize is that **providers need not become experts in family violence to approach an initial conversation, and respond safely and competently.**
  - Harriet presented **system-level requirements**, including practice principles such as private spaces, confidentiality (within the limits of [mandatory reporting](#) duties), documentation, provision of

information, and client-centredness. Attention to vicarious trauma and self-care/reflective practice is also required.

- We reiterated the WHO's **LIVES** (Listen, Inquire about Needs/Concerns, Validate, Enhance Safety and Support) approach and discussed ways to enhance and augment LIVES to integrate the [principles of trauma- and violence-informed care \(TVIC\)](#) at organization and provider levels.
- Jill McTavish presented the guidance statement for specific recommended and non-recommended **interventions for CM** and we discussed:
  - feasibility of the recommended interventions in the Canadian context (including availability, access, equity, cost/resources, etc.);
  - “referral pathways” for recommended interventions from various health and social service provider contexts and settings (small group activity).
- Nadine and Harriet introduced the idea of a new VEGA product: the “**VEGA Practice Handbook.**” This will “bridge” from the largely text-based “Guidance” to the more detailed Curriculum, be online (downloadable) and provide practice-specific sets of tools (scripts, protocols, etc.) to assist providers at the point-of-care. The idea was endorsed by NGIC members. The Handbook will be a priority for development and release and the skills supported by its tools will be the core of the VEGA Curriculum.

### Moving to Curriculum

- Mark Hanson and Susan Jack summarized the work of the **NGIC Leader Table in Education and Curriculum**, including exemplars from other organizations that might be useful as we evolve our curricular model.
- We discussed specific ways to deliver content and ensure learning:
  - [Steve Wilcox](#) from Wilfrid Laurier University and the University of Waterloo's [Games Institute](#) presented learnings from a VEGA-commissioned [White Paper](#) on using **serious gaming technology** for the VEGA Curriculum (available in the NGIC area of the VEGA website); he presented the next iteration in thinking about the use of interactive simulations for VEGA's target audiences of learners. The NGIC endorsed this approach as innovative and essential to ensuring our curriculum does not “sit on a shelf”. Work will continue on game development for the next meeting.
  - Mike Heinrich from [Reframe Health Lab](#) described the use of animated (video) **whiteboards** and other tools to provide content in a more user-friendly, learning-oriented way. NGIC members endorsed the idea of a trauma- and violence-informed care (TVIC) whiteboard to convey these core concepts and principles, and suggested a second priority board on “why VEGA?”, outlining the impact of family violence and the approach taken by VEGA to support a better response from providers and systems. This will be further developed by VEGA Leads and staff over the summer.
- We had a fulsome discussion about **accreditation**, and ensuring that we align core competencies, etc., with those of accrediting bodies across the NGIC organizations. It was noted that these will vary greatly, from fairly rigid requirements for some professions, to few or no accreditation requirements for others.

### Scans, KMob and Evaluation

- Anita Kothari updated us on the ongoing Environmental Scans and KMob activities.
  - We are evaluating our activities as we go; members will be asked to participate in time-limited activities, such as brief surveys and interviews.
  - We will present a **KMob Workshop**, at the next meeting, with key strategies to assist NGIC members in facilitating uptake into their organizations. Specific ideas/requests should be emailed to Anita.

**Meeting documents, including detailed notes and slides, can be found in the  
NGIC area of the VEGA website.**