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Medicine Hat Women's Shelter Society Community Outreach Office (The Ridge)

Theme: Wrap-around Supports for Women

The Safe Families Intervention Team (SFIT) is a partnership that was formed between the Medicine Hat Police Service and the Medicine Hat Women's Shelter Society (MHWSS). This newly formed unit is housed in the Medicine Hat Police Service building and consists of one MHPS Constable and two MHWSS outreach workers. The mission of this unit is to provide a collaborative, timely and effective team response in partnership with support agencies to assist families in dealing with incidents of family violence.

Critical Elements

- This outreach office works under the auspices of the Medicine Hat Women's Shelter Society but is located off-site in the community. It is situated in a health services building and is accessed by individuals who may not wish to stay in the shelter or go to the shelter building for services.
- Most referrals to the office come from SFIT – supporting the increase in demand that resulted from SFIT work.
- To increase community awareness and access the opening of the building was made public, with a well-publicized ribbon cutting ceremony officiated by the city's mayor.
- There has been a deliberate effort made to reach out to rural communities, that are generally limited in resources. One example has been a successful partnership with Oyen FCSS, mayor and RCMP, and the outreach workers travel there once per month.
- The office provides individual community outreach, one-on-one and group support as well as advocacy and referrals; these positions were made possible through the recent injection of funds by the Alberta government into Integrated Case Management.