

## Annapolis Valley Health

### **POLICY: Population Health Approach to Planning & Decision-making within Annapolis Valley Health**

#### Policy Statement:

Annapolis Valley Health endorses the adoption of a population health approach to planning and decision-making. The adoption of this policy directs AVH to strengthen its emphasis on prevention of illness and promotion of better health for the communities it serves. AVH endorses and is committed to the following principles:

- Think 'big picture' – the broad socio-economic environment influencing health outcomes and lifestyle choices
- Think health determinants – the broad range of factors that affect individual and population health. These determinants are: income and social status, social support networks, education, employment and working conditions, physical environments, social environments, biology and genetic endowment, personal health practices and coping skills, healthy child development, health services, gender and culture.
- Strive for equity in Health
- Form new strategic partnerships
- Think multi-strategies
- Think about evidence-data, epidemiological, clinical and experimental research, and community stories
- Think about evaluation
- Think about empowering practice and community participation in decision-making
- Think capacity building
- Think multi-sectors

#### Policy Objectives:

The purpose of this policy is to strengthen Annapolis Valley Health's commitment to address the factors that affect the health of our population and ensure that AVH decisions, activities and outcomes are compatible with population health principles. Objectives of the policy are to:

1. Support implementation of AVH Strategic Directions
2. Clarify expectations for Board members, physicians, volunteers, employees and students.
3. Increase AVH capacity to understand and advance the population health approach

(over)

Policy Directive:

All AVH programs, services, physicians, volunteers, employees, students, Board and Executive will:

1. Adhere to population health principles in planning and decision making
2. Identify in strategic, operational and business plans the decisions, activities and outcomes that support adherence to a population health approach
3. Provide opportunities for learning and development around population health

Accountability:

Annapolis Valley Health Board and President & CEO have overall responsibility for ensuring the implementation of this policy and this will be addressed in Annapolis Valley Health's annual report to the community.

Attachment:

Population Health Bookmark and Workbook

*Revision Made (in Policy Statement) Aug. 2006*