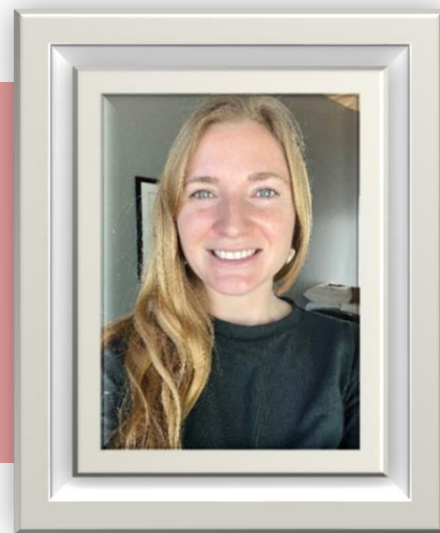




Lauren VanderPloeg

Strong Family House Urban

Community Health Nurse



Core

The Community Health Service Program in Nuuchahnulth communities emphasizes a holistic, culturally grounded approach to care, focusing on health promotion, clinical support, advocacy, and cultural safety.

1. Nurses empower individuals through immunizations, collaborative communicable disease prevention, surveillance and management, prenatal/postnatal care, sexual and reproductive health, chronic disease screening, prevention and management, and health education and promotion workshops that incorporate traditional knowledge—such as medicinal plants and seasonal foods—while partnering with Elders and Knowledge Keepers.

2. They provide direct, client-centered care in homes and communities, including medication review and wound care while respecting family and community involvement and blending Western medicine with traditional healing practices and ceremonies. Advocacy efforts target systemic barriers, promoting Nuuchahnulth self-determination in health planning, securing resources for community programs, and collaborating with First Nations leadership and healthcare organizations to improve access to care.

3. Central to their practice is cultural safety, relational practice and trauma-informed care, which honors Indigenous identity, addresses historical trauma, and fosters trust through active listening, humility, and adherence to OCAP® principles, ensuring care is community-led, respectful, and aligned with cultural protocols.

Specialty

- Bachelor of Science in Nursing
- BCCDC Immunization Certified
- Remote Nursing Certified Practice
- Certification in Reproductive Health and Contraceptive Management

Contact Information

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