

Meeting People Where They're At: Wholistic, Trauma-Informed Care for First Nations Clients Experiencing Homelessness and Addiction

November 5, 2026

1:30-3:00pm MT

This session explores what it looks like to provide truly wraparound care in this setting - from working within a broad interdisciplinary team to partnering with community organizations, pharmacists, and public health - all in service of meeting clients where they're at and removing barriers on their path to recovery. Kendrick will also share a lesson that continues to shape his practice: that restoring dignity - simply seeing people and making time for them - is often as therapeutic as any prescription.



This session was set up in collaboration with the Alberta Indigenous Virtual Care Clinic (AIVCC)



Learning Outcomes:

- A real-world picture of what wholistic, wrap-around care looks like for clients facing homelessness, addiction, and mental illness
- Practical ideas for reducing barriers to care, like flexible scheduling and meeting clients where they're at
- A better sense of what trauma-informed, patient-directed care looks like in day-to-day practice
- Insight into how integrating physical, mental, and social health support can help Indigenous and other marginalized clients on their path to recovery

Speaker:

Kendrick DeBoer, MN, NP, works with Recovery Alberta's Addictions and Mental Health Intensive Outreach team, focusing much of his time at the Lethbridge Wellness Shelter and Resource Centre, operated by the Blood Tribe Department of Health, where he provides primary care to a predominantly Indigenous population. He has been an NP for one year, following 15 years as an RN – the last three of which were in this field – and has built strong relationships with clients and community through consistent, trauma-informed, patient-directed care. He is currently working towards prescribing Opioid Agonist Therapy (OAT) and prescribing/administering implantable birth control, further expanding the scope of care he can offer this population.



Target Audience: Nurses, nurse practitioners, physicians, social workers, and other health/social service providers working with First Nations communities, people experiencing homelessness, or clients with substance use and mental health needs.

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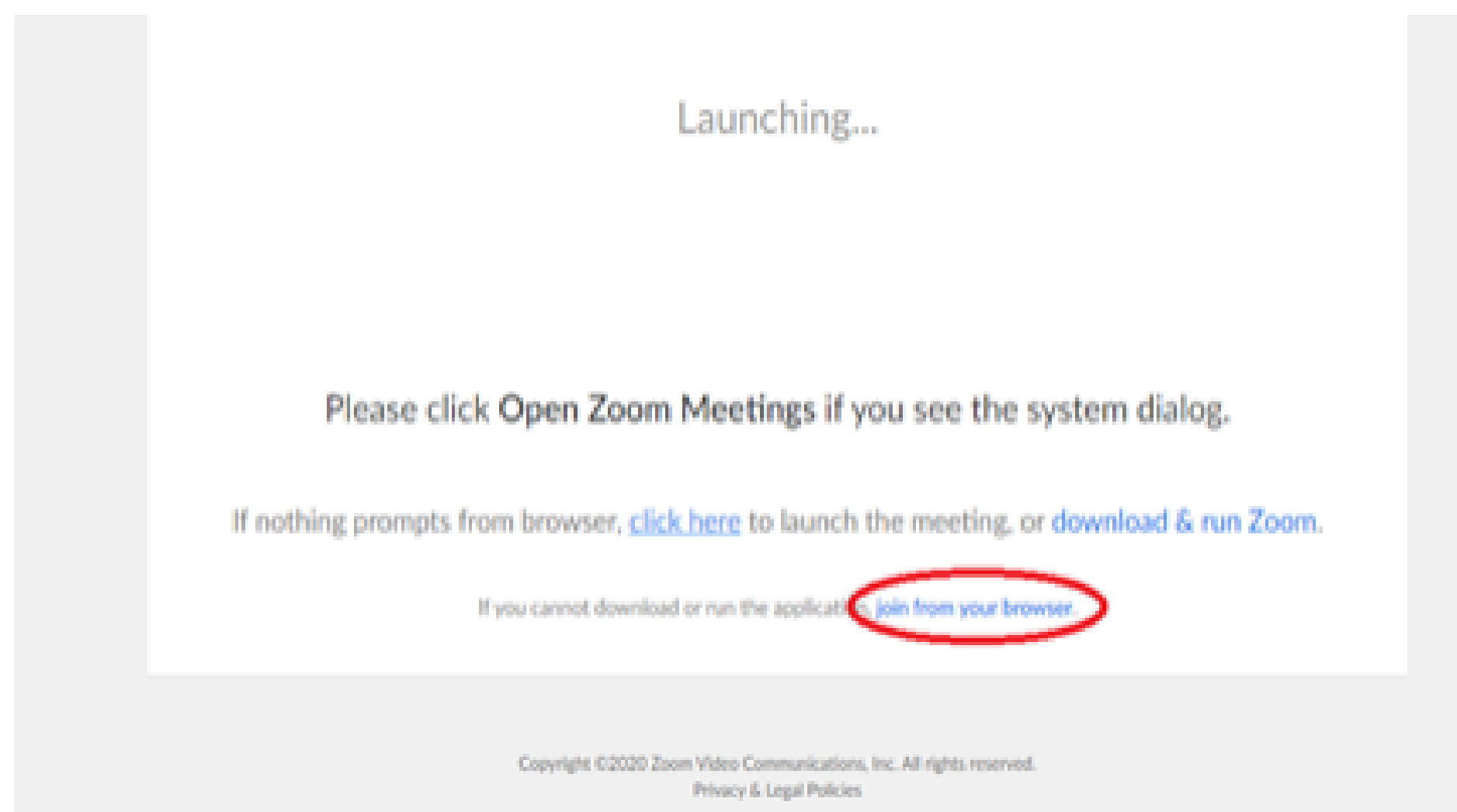
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