



EMYS LEAD AGENCY QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2018

In This Edition: Updates on Mental Health T.O.; what's up walk-in, 0-6 Network, Healthcare and Education Partnership Tables and more.

Updates

MENTAL HEALTH T.O.: ACCESS FOR INFANTS CHILDREN YOUTH & FAMILIES

We are thrilled to share that on July 23 **Mental Health T.O.: Access for Infants, Children, Youth & Families** went live. From now until fall 2018, we are soft-testing the system and referral system with live calls from potential clients and referring them to community-based mental health agencies in Toronto.

To help promote the MHTO service, we worked with eight core service providers (Aisling, CDI, CTYS, Griffin Centre, Skylark, The ECC, Yorktown and YouthLink,) who tested MHTO's technology to identify key referral sources around their agency to share information and promotional materials with. These eight agencies will also act as test referral agencies when we receive calls. We have targeted our outreach to 2,000 children, youth and parents with infants through local referral sources to secure 100 calls (5% penetration) through the summer. This pilot will provide important feedback from both the perspective of the CSP and the users.

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WHAT'S UP WALK-IN

The what's up walk-in network is recognized as a vital component in Toronto's system of accessing community-based mental health services for infant, children, youth and families. The walk-in partners are working to improve our walk-ins through targeted initiatives such as developing our ability to provide and promote services in multiple languages across Toronto, and specific training for staff to work with children under 6 years old alongside their families/caregivers.

In addition, as one of two major projects funded through the RBC Foundation, we have embarked on a program evaluation in relation to clients 19-24 using our walk-in services. Yorktown Family Services with help from a CAMH research assistant, is collecting and analyzing data as well as conducting a literature review. The recommendations from this work will provide valuable information to inform how the what's up walk-in partners design and implement our services, plan our outreach and engagement efforts and continue to be an important part of Toronto's mental health system for infants, children, youth and their families.

The what's up walk-in Youth Ambassadors pilot project is off to a great start! Youth Ambassadors from Stella's Place Peer-Support training have been recruited to volunteer across the different what's up walk-in locations. They will provide orientation to what's up walk-in, conduct community outreach, and consult with youth and past service users about their experience. The project is planned to run throughout the summer, and a final report will be shared in Fall 2018. This project is funded by the RBC foundation and the City of Toronto-Toronto Youth Equity Strategy.

In early 2018, the Executive Committee embarked on a series of discussions to identify the changing environment in which the Network, as well as each partner agency operates. As a result of these discussions, the what's up walk-in Executive Committee will be hiring a consultant over the fall to offer guidance through a strategic planning process. This includes but is not limited to: identifying the what's up walk-in role within the broader sector and the development of different models that are sustainable, effective and consider the similar and/or differing interests of all stakeholders.

****NOTE: The Etobicoke Children's Centre what's up walk-in and other resources has a new address: 200 Ronson Drive, Suite 401****

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HEALTHCARE PARTNERSHIP TABLE

The Healthcare Partnership Table (HCP) held its regular meeting in May to distill learnings from the Primary Healthcare Retreat the previous month, and to hear updates from various pilot projects under its umbrella. Co-Chairs, Dr. Peter Szatmari and Susan Chamberlain alongside Lead Agency staff, will develop a strategy and plan over the summer for the revamped structure and terms of reference for the extended mandate of the HCP.

EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP TABLE

The Education Partnership Table through a small joint task force consisting of four Executive Directors/CEOs of Core Service Providers, TCDSB and TDSB are working to tackle the challenge of special projects in schools. Full Day Kindergarten (FDK) with the 4 to 6-year-old population was consistently identified with emerging needs in the school system. This short-term task force will meet again in October to continue its work on a targeted pilot.

0 TO 6 NETWORK

Over the last several months, building support and increasing the profile of the 0 to 6 population has been a significant accomplishment. In the works are discussions about the development of the Network and its Terms of Reference. Also, a work plan that considers the priority areas of the 3-year plan are upcoming.

The Canadian Centre for Accreditation (CCA) and Children's Mental Health Ontario (CMHO), together with the support of The Ontario Centre of Excellence for Child and Youth Mental Health, have partnered together to review and update the current Child and Youth Mental Health Accreditation Standards. This support is reflective of a recommendation from the 0 to 6 Working Group to assess the quality of programs and services offered to the perinatal and 0 to 6 populations.

Other upcoming activities include crafting a common definition and narrative for infant mental health, and participating in CMHO's call for help in updating the accreditation standards is well underway! Preliminary discussions have occurred about hosting a symposium in the autumn with key stakeholders to focus on infant mental health.

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News

CAFCAN/JCA, EAST METRO YOUTH SERVICES AND YORKTOWN CHILD FAMILY SERVICES PARTNER TO ADDRESS INCREASED GUN VIOLENCE IN TORONTO

To help address the recent influx of gun-related violence and deaths in Toronto over 2018, the City of Toronto and Government of Ontario collectively looked at strategies to curb the escalation as well as ways in which to engage directly with communities in which youth and families considered most at risk for being victims or perpetrators live. The City asked the three Provincial Youth Outreach Worker (YOWs) lead agencies, CAFCAN/JCA, East Metro Youth Services, and Yorktown Child and Family Services to collaborate on initiatives to address youth violence. These initiatives fell in the Prevention and Early intervention sections of the City's broader plan. Using existing resources, the YOW leads have developed a coordinated regional response by redeploying YOWs to the Toronto downtown area.

The YOW lead agencies are continuing to meet with each other and other crucial city partners such as City of Toronto, Government of Ontario and United Way Greater Toronto on an ongoing basis to understand and address the root causes of youth violence to prevent future instances of escalating street violence.

CHEO WANTS TO GIVE YOUTH & FAMILIES A SAY IN PROJECT *LEGALIZATION OF CANNABIS – PREVENTION AND HARM REDUCTION SUPPORT FOR SERVICE PROVIDERS*

The Centre of Excellence for Child and Youth Mental Health wants to integrate youth and family voices in the project *Legalization of cannabis – Prevention and harm reduction support for service providers*. To do so, they have developed two surveys; one for youth and one for families that aim to understand what each group hopes practitioners who support them will learn and to invite them to participate in focus groups that will inform the training content and resources.

Please share the below links with your youth and families as you see as a fit.

- Youth: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/YYJTW5>
- Families: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/DH5DX28>

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Announcements

DR. LYNN RYAN MACKENZIE, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, CHILD DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE

Dr. Lynn Ryan MacKenzie is Child Development Institute's new Chief Executive Officer effective in September 2018. Lynn Ryan MacKenzie, PhD brings extensive and relevant health and human services experience along with a strong leadership track record to CDI. She was most recently the Acting Assistant Deputy Minister of Operations for the Department of Health, Government of Nunavut. She succeeds Tony Diniz after his twenty-eight years of service to the agency.

DAVID WILLIS, DIRECTOR OF STRATEGY AND SYSTEMS MANAGEMENT, EAST METRO YOUTH SERVICES

David Willis will be joining East Metro Youth Services (EMYS) as Director of Strategy and Systems Management effective August 13, 2018. David is currently the Clinical Services Manager at The Hospital for Sick Children, overseeing a variety of programs including Tele-Link Mental Health and Brain and Mental Health. David fills Roberta Bustard's role.

CATHARINE DE LEEUW, MANAGER OF PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT AND QUALITY ASSURANCE, EAST METRO YOUTH SERVICES

Catharine de Leeuw is joining East Metro Youth Services (EMYS) as Manager of Performance Management and Quality Assurance effective August 20 on contract until March 2019. In this role, Catharine will be providing leadership on, overseeing and managing all functions related to data management, performance management, measurement and evaluation within EMYS and in our work under Moving on Mental Health and the Provincial Youth Outreach Worker (YOW) Program. She will also support capacity-building efforts within the sector and work in partnership with other organizations and initiatives.

Reminders

Reminder, we are still in the process of reaching out to and meeting with key stakeholders about our three-year strategic plan reviewed by Core Service Providers at our June 2018 meeting. We look forward to continuing meaningful conversations and connections in the fall about this.

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