



Media Release

First County Wide Mental Health and Addiction Plan Released

In 2015, as a part of the Moving on Mental Health Initiative, a county wide planning table was created under the leadership of The Phoenix Centre for Children and Families, with a mandate to create an overarching mental health and addiction plan. The goal of the plan was to create a more client centred, effective and efficient system which would help anyone experiencing a mental health challenge get to the right door to receive the right treatment at the right time.

This effort was duplicated across all 33 regions of the Province although, the Renfrew County, Moving on Mental Health plan, is only one of 2 other regions which focused on all ages rather than just under those under 18.

In order to create the best plan possible stakeholders across the county supported the concept of a multi sector Planning Table being created. 17 different sectors were identified (i.e. health, education, addiction, francophone, first nations/metis/Inuit, new comers, children's services, adult services, community support services, faith community, legal community, military community, youth, caregivers, developmental services, and municipalities/recreation/employment services. Two representatives from each of the sectors sits at the table as well as representatives from the various regional services which provide services to the County (i.e. CHEO, ROH, YouTurn).

After almost two years of meetings, surveying stakeholders, holding focus groups and collating data the Planning Table created its first plan which focuses on three priority areas: Intake/Access, Pathways to Care and Crisis System. Each of these areas has a number of recommendations, which were then translated to action plans created by working groups.

One of the main features of the MOMH Plan is to have all agencies/organizations adopt the principle of "Connecting Everyone to the Right Door." Once implemented (fall of 2018) anyone going to any agency and finding out it is not the right service will receive help/support to get him/her connected to the right services. Debra Woodfine, chair of the Intake Access Working Groups states, "We have many stories of those needing access to mental health services but do not know where to go, or if they connect to the wrong service are provided a phone number or a list of other services. "Connecting Everyone to the Right Door" means that agencies will take the responsibility of staying with a client until they get to the right door. This is very much in keeping with our primary principle of being client centred."

The new plan is able to be read or downloaded from the Phoenix Centre website at www.phoenixctr.com by going to the MOMH tab. It is available in both French and English and updates will be available as the work continues.

Greg Lubimiv, Chair of the MOMH Planning Table and Executive Director of the Phoenix Centre says "Mental Health and Addiction Services are going to go through some major transitions over the next few

years and this is very much due to the amazing people around the Planning Table who have put huge amounts of time and effort into creating a plan that will make a difference. We are also thankful to the Ministry of Children and Youth for their vision of system transformation and the provision of resources”

On June 27, 2018 at the Kiwanis House at Riverside Park (5:00 pm to 7:30 pm), the Phoenix Centre will hold its Annual General Meeting and will provide a more detailed report on the Renfrew County Mental Health and Addiction Plan, as well as information on a new free on-line service to anyone suffering from anxiety or depression. “This is an exciting time for anyone needing to access mental health or addiction services. The new system being created, as well as some of the innovative programs that are now launching in the Province will help ease some of the challenges we have with the lack of capacity to meet the needs.” Adds Mr. Lubimiv.

For further information go to the Phoenix Centre Website, www.phoenixctr.com or contact Greg Lubimiv at glubimiv@phoenixctr.com