

Stormont, Dundas & Glengarry – SDG Lead Agency Progress Report

FEBRUARY 2018

ISSUE 5

Vision Statement:

"We envision an Ontario in which child and youth mental health is recognized as a key determinant of overall health and well-being, and where children and youth grow to reach their full potential."

-Ontario's Policy Framework for Child and Youth Mental Health

Goal:

"Together, we will transform the experience of children and youth with mental health problems and their families, so that they will know what high quality mental health services are available in our community; and how to access mental health services and support that meet their needs."

-Moving on Mental Health

WELCOME TO OUR FIFTH NEWSLETTER

We are pleased to issue our fifth newsletter to share our progress in **Moving on Mental Health** in SDG since our last one released in January 2017. All of our newsletters in English and French are posted on the Cornwall Community Hospital website under *Child and Youth Mental Health Services*. You will be able to click on the link there to bring you to the newsletters as well as link directly to the Ministry of Children and Youth Services (MCYS) website for provincial updates:
<https://www.cornwallhospital.ca/en/ChildrenMentalHealth>
<https://www.cornwallhospital.ca/fr/santementaleenfants>

PROGRESS ON 2017-2018 WORK PLAN

Over the past year, we have continued to work with MCYS and with our SDG Children and Youth Mental Health Advisory Committee; our French Language Services Committee; and other partners and stakeholders, including parents/families and youth on the identified priorities from our 2017-2018 Plans. These activities supported three priority areas identified: (1) Youth Engagement; (2) Crisis Support Services; and (3) Respite Services. In this newsletter we will highlight our work on youth engagement and crisis support services.

YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

This year we have been focusing on enhancing youth engagement in service planning. Our work builds on the consultations undertaken in SDG in the fall of 2016, where we heard the following from the 53 youth who participated:

- They would like to see youth taking an active role in the community.
- Community development and mental health awareness events could be led by youth. These opportunities should be explored with youth, not prescribed to them.
- They are interested in being engaged in peer support programming and sharing their stories with others.
- While they appreciate being consulted, they would like to take action and make things happen.

Our approach in moving these ideas forward has been grounded in a co-design philosophy. We have committed to providing youth with leadership opportunities where they can work with adult allies to learn skills, focus on issues that they are

passionate about and find ways in which we can embed the youth voice at all levels.

To that end, Cornwall Community Hospital hosted a half day “staff primer” on June 29, 2017 for core service providers to share information about meaningful youth engagement. In September 2017, our Innovation Initiative grant proposal to the Centre of Excellence on “Taking Youth Engagement to the Next Level in SDG” was approved and funding received to hire two Youth Advisors to work with us to ensure the voice of youth is included in system planning. A Youth Engagement Work Group was established with community partners and youth advisors.

Our Youth Advisors came on board in November 2017 and will be working with us until June 2018. This timing was most fortunate as we were able to weave into the work plan an active role for the Youth Advisors in supporting the development of a Youth Wellness Hub proposal for Eastern Champlain submitted on December 15, 2017. In the coming months the Youth Advisors will continue to explore key issues with youth including linking to our work on crisis / respite services to better understand this gap in our community and how we can address it from the youth perspective. As well, they will gather more information on how youth want to be involved in system planning so we can formalize and sustain our youth engagement movement.

CORNWALL COMMUNITY HOSPITAL

Community Addiction & Mental Health Services

NEW LOCATION!

Child and Youth Mental Health Services

Single Point Access

850 McConnell Ave
Cornwall, ON
Tel: (613) 361-6363
Fax: (613) 361-6364

www.cornwallhospital.ca

CRISIS SUPPORT SERVICES

Our new Crisis Support Services Worker has now been in place since March 2016. The Crisis Support Services Worker’s hours of service are 11 am to 7 pm. Processes for after-hours coverage and for any times of absence have been developed. Please note that Professionals can call to consult at 613-362-7672.

During the first 19 month period from March 2016 to September 2017, a total of 121 children and youth were seen by the Crisis Support Services Worker. Of these, 103 involved youth with suicidal ideation and threat to others/self.

Another exciting initiative that we are leading is the roll-out of the Provincial Emergency Department (ED) Clinical Pathway for children and youth with mental health conditions for Winchester District Memorial Hospital and Cornwall Community Hospital. This initiative focuses on developing an evidence-informed clinical pathway with decision support tools to guide and support the care of children and youth presenting to EDs with mental health and addiction problems. This will ensure a seamless transition to follow-up services with relevant community mental health and addiction agencies.

For more information, contact the Lead Agency:

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