

Transitional Connector to Provide Mental Health and Addictions Support for Young Adults in Hastings-Prince Edward

NEWS

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Youth Habilitation Quinte (Youthab) and the South East Local Health Integration Network (SE LHIN) are improving the coordination of care for Transitional Aged Youth (TAY) between 16 and 24 years of age with mental health and/or addiction challenges through the services of a Transitional Connector.

These services will benefit young adults whose eligibility for children's mental health services end at age 18 and those who require services but are not connected with community supports.

TAY are prepared, supported, connected and empowered during the transition to a new agency for needed services. The Transitional Connector collaborates with local providers to bridge this critical transition to appropriate ongoing services while enhancing TAY's skills to achieve independence.

The Transitional Connector coordinates transitions and services for mental health and addictions, education, employment, living situation and daily functioning to improve the emotional well-being of youth. This engagement with TAY, their family, and service and care providers can preempt clients from falling through the cracks.

Implemented by Youthab, an evaluation will be conducted to measure results to:

- Improve access to care for appropriate ongoing services
- Reduce avoidable emergency room visits
- Reduce unnecessary re-admission to hospitals shortly after discharge

The TAY pilot started in Belleville and Quinte West and will be expanded to Central Hastings in mid-October 2013.

QUOTES

"...someone who would listen... and give me information that actually makes sense. Someone that can help me get through dealing with stresses and anxieties."

- 18 year old Belleville resident

“Transitioning into adulthood can be difficult; however, for those who are facing mental health and addiction challenges, it can seem overwhelming. The support of this dedicated program is crucial for the success of these youth. I would like to congratulate Youth Habilitation Quinte on their continued dedication to the youth in our community.”

- Todd Smith, MPP for Hastings-Prince Edward

“The role of the Transitional Connector and Youth Habilitation Quinte is integral to recognizing that the appropriate services are made available to youth moving into adulthood during a difficult time of transition. With the dedication of Youthab Quinte we are helping to protect clients from falling through the cracks.”

- Paul Huras, CEO South East LHIN

“Transitioning into adulthood can be challenging for any young person, especially those who have mental health or addiction issues, employment or housing needs. Having a dedicated program to support and connect 16 to 24 year olds to services in their community is critical.”

- Cathie West, Executive Director, Youth Habilitation Quinte Inc.

QUICK FACTS

- At least 70% of mental health problems and illnesses have their onset during childhood and adolescence (Statistics Canada, 2002)
- Suicide is the second leading cause of death among youth (Statistics Canada, 2009)
- Only 1 in 5 children and youth in need of mental health services receive care (Cappelli et al, 2010)
- It is predicted that mental illness will be one of the five most common causes of morbidity, mortality and disability among children by 2020 (Children’s Mental Health Ontario, 2013)
- When children with disorders are not effectively treated, they become more vulnerable and less resilient as they approach adulthood (Wattie, 2003)
- At least 60 per cent of young people with mental health issues disengage from service during the transition (Vloet, Davidson & Cappelli, 2011)

LEARN MORE

To learn more, please refer to the [TAY Brochure](#) or visit: www.youthab.ca/tay

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