

NEWS

COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTIONS CONSULTATIONS TAKING PLACE IN THE SOUTH EAST

October 8, 2009

The South East Local Health Integration Network (LHIN) is working closely with mental health and addictions providers, consumers, family members and other interested stakeholders to collect local feedback to help inform a 10-year strategy for mental health and addictions in Ontario.

Three consultations will be held in the South East – Oct. 7, 1-2:30 pm at the Front Avenue Resource Centre, 25 Front Ave. W., Brockville; Oct. 15, 11:30 am – 1:30 pm at Pathways, 289 Pinnacle St., Belleville; and Oct. 16, 10-11:30 am at Frontenac Community Mental Health Services, 552 Princess St., Kingston.

Each of the sessions will involve a brief overview on the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care's (MOHLTC) strategy development process from local members of the Minister of Health's [Advisory Group on Mental Health and Addictions](#) – Vicky Huehn, executive director from Frontenac Community Mental Health Services and Dr. J. Kenneth LeClair, clinical director of geriatric psychiatry at Providence Care. Central to the consultation is the July 2009 discussion paper "[Every Door is the Right Door](#)".

Some questions participants may want to consider prior to attending the events include:

- From a client perspective, what are the top three things that would improve access to services and to allow people to move throughout the system better?
- What are the top three most important social determinants of health and why (i.e., income, education, housing)? What change is necessary to achieve improved outcomes in these three areas?
- What are the three most important things that need to be done to create consumer partnerships, peer support and mutual aid? What conditions do we need to create equal partnership and involvement?
- Where can early identification and early intervention make the biggest impact? What are the obstacles to achieving early identification and intervention?

QUOTES

"This is an important opportunity for traditional and non-traditional health care providers, consumers and family members to have input into the 10-year strategic plan for Ontario. Input that we receive locally will also assist in the South East LHIN's achievement of its goal to Improving mental health and addictions services capacity which was recently approved as one of the recommendations for our next [Integrated Health Services Plan](#) (2010/11 – 1012/13)."

– Georgina Thompson, Chair, South East LHIN.

"The timing is right to transform the way we move forward with mental health and addictions with national attention through the Mental Health Commission and our Minister's dedication to this issue as a major priority. It truly is the time to make a difference. This will only happen if we hear the voices of reality in our LHIN informing the ideas, and the ideas will only make a difference if they are transferred to reality. Our local input is the only way for change to happen."

– Dr. Ken LeClair, Psychiatrist and Clinical Director for Geriatric Psychiatry Program, Providence Care



“The energy created by the Minister of Health’s dedication to this 10-year mental health and addictions strategy and the enthusiastic involvement of so many people throughout the province -- including people with lived experience -- provides hope that we can develop an efficient, effective system that will truly focus on the needs of people needing services. Local feedback is crucial and your participation is needed. Please take this opportunity to have your input! I look forward to meeting you there.”

- Vicky Huehn, Executive Director, FCMHS

QUICK FACTS

- It is estimated that nearly one in five Canadian adults will personally experience a mental illness during a one-year period.
- The majority of mental health inpatient bed days in the South East were for adults aged 20-64 (80% overall in fiscal 2007)
- The number of new and ongoing substance abuse cases in the South East LHIN increased from 7,600 in 2004 to 8,200 in 2006 before dropping to 7,400 in 2008. More men (70%) are treated and most are between the ages of 16 and 54.

LEARN MORE

To confirm attendance at the Brockville workshop, call (613) 342-6214 ext, 5303; for the Belleville event, call (613) 969-0077; for the Kingston event, call (613) 544-1356.

Find out more about health care services in the [South East LHIN](#)

Get more information on [Minister Caplan's Advisory Group on Mental Health and Addictions](#)

Get more information on the [Select Committee on Mental Health and Addictions](#)