



Program Descriptions

Youth Justice Community Programs

Revision Dates:
05/16

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05/16

POPULATION SERVED

Youth Justice Community Programs provide services to youth who have been in conflict with the law who reside in Toronto.

Referral Process

Referrals to the Youth Justice Community programs are facilitated through the agency's Intake Coordinator, who receives the request, provides information about the services available and for some programs conducts an intake phone interview.

For the YMHCW program referrals are made directly to the Youth Mental Health Court Workers.

PRINCIPLES OF SERVICE

- Accessible
- Respectful/Non-Discriminatory
- Embrace Diversity
- Equitable
- Safe
- Strengths Based
- Relationship Based
- Partnership with youth and families
- Collaborative
- Transparent
- Flexible
- Efficient/Effective
- Risk Reduction
- Accountable

MODEL OF INTERVENTION/APPROACH

The Youth Justice Community Programs are committed to providing an evidence informed, client centered, strengths based, relationship based approach that is sensitive to issues of racial, cultural, religious and sexual diversity. Services are always provided within the framework of best practice. Services focus on the assessment of the client's goals, strengths and needs, and corresponding interventions to support the achievement of goals, meeting of needs and the enhancement of strengths.

A range of treatment models for individuals, families and groups are used, with particular emphasis on Trauma Informed, Attachment Based philosophy of care and interventions. Treatments such as Dialectical Behavioral Therapy, Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT), Narrative, and Brief Solution Focused Therapies are some examples of models of therapy used.

STAFFING

The program is staffed by individuals with the appropriate range of skills and abilities necessary to respond effectively to the needs of clients and families. Typically, the direct program employees are Child and Youth Workers. Counsellors also work with these clients and the Agency typically hires professional counsellors with post-graduate degrees in social work or a related field (e.g. Masters in Psychology/Education) to work within this program. Employees possess licensing with the appropriate regulatory body.

MULTIDISCIPLINARY APPROACH

A multidisciplinary approach is utilized in the delivery of service. As needed, we are at times joined by the consulting Psychiatrist and Psychologist. In addition, colleagues from other programs who may share a client are encouraged to join the team to participate in discussions.

COLLABORATION

In keeping with our belief in youth and family engagement, the client and parents/guardians/caregivers are seen as integral members of the service team. As such, they are involved in all major decisions in the development and review of the service, and then regularly at goal reviews and at service completion.

If other service providers (such as school, doctor, other agency, hospitals, etc.) are likely to be involved in providing service to the client and parents/guardians/caregivers then, with the consent of the client and parents/guardians/caregivers, they will also be encouraged to participate as members of the service team

PROGRAM SUMMARIES

Turning Point Attendance Program (TAP)

TAP assists youth involved in the Youth Criminal Justice system that have been referred by the court and/or probation services. The program is located at our 95 Wellesley Street East site and offers a range of services designed to increase awareness, skills, strategies and supports to help improve young people's functioning, enhance mental health and reduce the risk of reoffending.

Services are offered on site at 95 Wellesley St. East, at Probation offices in Toronto and in the community with flexible hours to meet the needs of clients. Services are provided on an individual or group basis depending on the plan that is developed with the youth and their family/system of support.

An initial assessment is completed with all youth that explores their strengths and needs, risk to reoffend, mental health and support system. Service plans are developed with the youth, caregiver/system of support and referral source and/or other service providers to address the unique needs of each youth and family. Service options include victim empathy, SNAP-Youth Justice (Stop Now and Plan) for males, substance use education, victim empathy, girl's programming, individual and family counselling, employment and/or education support.

The goals of the attendance program include:

- enhancing client awareness;
- improving skills and strategies;
- increasing supports; and
- decreasing the risk of re-offending.

Referrals can be initiated by any young person or the parent/guardian of a young person who has been charged and is required to appear at Youth Court, Probation Officers, Defense Counsel, police, community and child welfare service providers, school-based employees, etc.

Service typically lasts 3 to 6 months, and subsequent to completion, clients are welcome to reconnect with

the program should crises arise or challenges recur.

Youth Mental Health Court Worker (YMHCW)

The Youth Mental Health Court Worker (YMHCW) Program is located at the Ontario Court of Justice at 311 Jarvis St. in Toronto, and serves youth who have been charged and are required to appear at court. Services are offered at 311 Jarvis St. and in the community with flexible hours to meet the needs of clients.

The YMHCW works with three groups of youth, including:

- youth who are to be considered for mental health and/or substance abuse diversion;
- youth pleading guilty who require assistance to find specialized supports and services in the community and/or youth facilities; and
- youth who are seriously ill and require a more urgent and comprehensive response from service providers.

The program is designed as an assessment and planning service for youth and the courts, and is not intended to provide more than crisis counselling and short-term case management. The primary goal of the program is to identify needs and bridge youth to services in the community, as part of a diversion plan or in support of a youth who is remaining in the regular court stream. The program is voluntary and treatment plans are made with the youth, their family/system of support and any other significant care or service providers.

The YMHCW plays a central role in The Community Youth Court (CYC), a specialized youth court focused on mental health and addiction issues at 311 Jarvis Street. The CYC is not a trial court, but rather a problem-solving court in which youth work with the court team to develop a creative and appropriate plan focusing on the mental health and substance needs as well as the offending behavior that brought them into conflict with the law.

Referrals can be initiated by any young person or the parent/guardian of a young person who has been charged and is required to appear at 311 Jarvis St., Duty Counsel, Defense Counsel, probation services, police, community and child welfare service providers, etc.

Service typically lasts 3 to 6 months, and subsequent to completion, clients are welcome to reconnect with the program should crises arise or challenges recur.

Toronto Mental Health Collaborative

The Toronto Mental Health Collaborative is a partnership between Central Toronto Youth Services (CTYS) and Turning Point Youth Services. The service provides timely access to mental health assessments and specialized consultation with psychiatry and psychology to youth involved in the Youth Criminal Justice system.

Brief mental health counselling and referrals to ongoing services are available. A family outreach worker can support the families of youth requiring the service. Sexual offending risk assessments are available for youth presenting at a low risk in the court system.

CTYS provides a central intake access point for the service. Referrals are initiated only by probation services and Youth Mental Health Court Workers. Mental health assessment, consultation and brief counselling referrals are divided amongst two social workers, one of whom is based at CTYS and one at TPYS. The program is voluntary, and assessment and treatment plans are made with the youth, their family/system of support and any other significant care or service providers.

The goal of the Toronto Mental Health Collaborative is to provide quick access to mental health assessment and brief counselling services, which will result in enhanced client awareness, improved skills and strategies, increased supports and ultimately decrease the risk of re-offending.

Services offered by the TPYS social worker are provided at the 95 Wellesley St. East site, at Probation offices in Toronto and in the community with flexible hours to meet the needs of clients. Service typically lasts 3 to 6 months, and subsequent to completion, clients are welcome to reconnect with the program should crises arise or challenges recur.