



Program Descriptions

Youth Justice Residences

Revision Dates:

04/16

Last Review Date:

04/16

POPULATION SERVED

The Youth Justice Residential Programs (Logan and Everett) are structured residential treatment programs for young males, who are involved in the Youth Criminal Justice System and are referred through the courts and Probation services. Youth are either awaiting a court appearance or serving their open custody disposition. The Logan and Everett Programs specialize in services for youth living with mental health and or addictions issues.

The programs are located in residential neighbourhoods in the east end of Toronto with access to a local park, the YMCA, schools, religious/cultural centres and recreation centres.

Referral Process

Clients are referred through the courts and probation services.

Number of Clients Served/Location of Program

- Everett Program – 8 bed male residence – Woodbine and Danforth area
- Logan Program – 8 bed male residence – Riverdale community

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 Residential 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.

The goal of the program is to prevent and reduce youth involvement in the criminal justice system and support their reintegration back into the community.

Each client participates in the development of a Case Management Plan that reflects an individualized assessment of needs, strengths and criminogenic risk factors. The Case Management Plan identifies the specific services/supports received by the client, the expected outcomes and is based on the principles of individualized planning, self-determination and choice. Case Management Plans are also built upon the client's strengths and are targeted at building supports for specific needs of the client, thereby ensuring continuity, where possible, in social, educational and recreational activities.

STAFFING

The Youth Justice Residential Programs are staffed by a team of Youth Workers with the appropriate range of skills and abilities necessary to respond effectively to the needs of clients and families. The direct service employees are CYWs. A minimum of 2 employees are working at all times, with additional employees scheduled each day to support programming and court. At times, as determined as a component of a youth's case management plan, additional staffing may be implemented.

Residents of the programs also receive additional support from the Counselling Team. 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 partnership between TPYS and Central Toronto Youth Services (CTYS) allows the programs to specialize (although not exclusively) in assisting youth living with mental illness and/or substance use issues. The goal of this partnership is to address the needs of all youth in the program, providing a multidisciplinary and collaborative approach to enhance the clinical supports and capacity of the program to meet the identified needs. The goal is to ensure continuity and a continuum of care.

The program clinician fulfills the role of Service Coordinator for the clients and their families and may also provide individual and/or family counseling to clients, as appropriate. Additionally, as deemed appropriate, a consulting psychiatrist and/or psychologist or other professional may be involved as a member of the multi-disciplinary team and can be accessed through CTYS.

COLLABORATION

The client, parents/guardians/caregivers and assigned Probation Officer are seen as integral members of the service team. As such, they are involved in all major decision points in the development and review of the service at the Case Management Meeting, and then regularly at reviews and at service completion.

If other service providers (such as school, doctor, other agency, hospitals, etc.) are, or have been, or perhaps will 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.

FOLLOW-UP SERVICES

A final component of our service is our commitment to aftercare. The focus is to provide assistance and guidance to our clients and their families. The Youth Transition Worker supports the youth towards a successful reintegration back into their community. Aftercare services are individualized, based on the needs and risk factors of the client and family and negotiated as a component of the discharge case management plan.

PROGRAM SUMMARY

The Youth Justice Programs provide a supportive milieu that is designed to meet the needs of youth served and is structured with daily routines that incorporate the development of life and social skills, recreational and leisure activities and process oriented groups. The programs utilize the community supports in the surrounding areas which include libraries, schools, medical and recreational centres.

Individual, family and group counselling are available to all youth in the programs.

Additionally, all clients participate in an educational program within 3 Day Treatment/Section 23 Classrooms, operated in collaboration with the Toronto District School Board, Gifford Agency and Operation Springboard. One of the classrooms is located within the Everett Program and two within the Jones Avenue Adult Centre. The programs provide individualized educational assessment and programming for the clients throughout the school year. The partnership provides youth with exposure to a greater number of credit options in order to support their education.

The Youth Justice Residential Programs are accredited by Canadian Centre for Accreditation (C.C.A.) and licensed by the Ministry of Children and Youth Services.