

NEW INTENSIVE IN-HOME AND DAY TREATMENT SERVICES

Improving access, quality of care and keeping families together

Today, Toronto's Lead Agency for Infant, Children and Youth Mental Health (East Metro Youth Services) and three community-based mental health service providers, **The George Hull Centre for Children and Families**, **Turning Point Youth Services**, and **SickKids Centre for Community Mental Health (CCMH)**, are pleased to announce a new service delivery model for Intensive In-Home and Day Treatment Services. The Lead Agency originally coordinated this project in partnership with the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services, and moving forward it will be with the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care and with the participating agencies.

The new model increases substantially the amount of day-based services available to families and youth in the city of Toronto. In addition, it improves access to intensive services by increasing overall capacity. These changes require the decommissioning of three significantly underutilized residential settings: The George Hull's *The Boys House*, Turning Point's *Woodycrest*, and SickKids CCMH's *Rural Residential Farm*. All the existing funding for these services will be redeployed to more flexible and client centred Intensive In-home and Day Treatment services that will see higher volumes and that will better meet the needs of youth with complex mental health concerns and their families.

Over the last three years, Toronto has seen declining use of Residential Treatment services and faced an increased demand for Intensive day-based services that do not require absence from home. Centralized Access to Residential Services (C.A.R.S.) data shows that occupancy of residential beds across the Toronto region has been consistently below 75% over the past three years. The occupancy rates for the three services mentioned here in the same period have been even lower. At the same time, demand for intensive support, inclusive of in-home intensive and day treatment, has increased and remains high. There is a need to think differently about how we deliver intensive treatments and the planned changes not only expand system capacity by as many as 200 new unique clients per year, they increase significantly the amount of service available that does not require overnight stays.

These changes are in response to the growing desire of families and youth to receive intensive treatment at home and in their communities. They also reflect evidence that suggests that day-based community integrated approaches are more effective and better sustained than residential treatment.

It is acknowledged that these changes will have an impact on our workforce. The impacts are different in each agency and are being mitigated through different means that are appropriate to the circumstances of each organization.

Residential Treatment will continue to be available and remains a priority for children and youth whose home life and living circumstances are a barrier to receiving effective treatment. This change allows us to continue to deliver on our commitment to provide the highest quality service to as many children, youth and their families as possible.

The realignment of these three Residential programs will begin in Summer/Fall 2019 when all current clients have completed treatment. While the expected launch date for each agency's Intensive In-Home Services varies, we anticipate the renewed Intensive In-Home Services across all three agencies to be fully operational by December 2020. Each individual agency will be sharing the exact details and timelines for their respective programs as they continue to plan and operationalize the new service delivery model. The goal of these changes is to ensure that system re-design increases access and reduces wait times to high quality intensive services better matched to the needs of our clients and families. We are committed as a system to serving more children and youth and the announced changes today are a step toward this collective goal.

Signed,



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