

COMMUNITY MEMO

Date: June 29, 2017
To: Community Partners
CC: MCYS
From: Moving on Mental Health Residential Treatment Services Work Group
Subject: Update to Residential Treatment Services Planning

Dear Valued Community Partner,

As indicated in the Community Memo March 8, 2017, a working group has been working to assess the current state of residential treatment services for children and youth in Hamilton with intensive mental health needs.

Following engagement and feedback from stakeholders, including a series of consultations with service providers, youth and families, the work group continues to endorse the proposed changes. At this stage, we will be developing a business case for proposed change, and seeking approval from MCYS. We anticipate this process will take until the fall to determine next steps.

The proposals for change continue to be:

- Ensuring that existing services are financially sound. This will not be done by diverting resources from other mental health services and processes, which are challenged to respond to growing service demand and funding restraint.
- The residential program for younger children (ages 6 to 12) will include an additional, proactive respite component.
- Children involved with Hamilton's children's aid societies need access to a range of beds, rather than dedicated beds at only one facility (Flamborough program)
- Services will work better with other parts of the service system if we dedicate certain residential treatment beds for adolescents who would benefit from and have interest in short term stabilization/treatment (anticipated length of stay 1-6 weeks)
- The adolescent residential services will transition from gender specific environments to programs that serve all eligible young people, regardless of gender identification. Residential services will be delineated by age range as well.

Please do not hesitate to contact us should you have any questions. We will continue to communicate as the process unfolds.

Sincerely,



Maggie Inrig, Director of System Planning, Lynwood Charlton Centre, Lead Agency for MOMH

On behalf of members of the Residential Treatment Services Work Group (comprised of representation from McMaster Children's Hospital, Good Shepherd, Lynwood Charlton Centre, Contact Hamilton, MCYS, the Children's Aid Society of Hamilton and the Catholic Children's Aid Society of Hamilton).