

Research Report Round-up



February 12, 2013

A research report summary

Title and Link to Report

[Navigating the Journey to Wellness: The Comprehensive Mental Health and Addictions Action Plan for Ontarians](#)

Author(s)

Select Committee on Mental Health and Addictions – Legislative Assembly of Ontario

Year

2010

Location

Toronto

What this Report is About

This report provides 23 recommendations based on findings from the Ontario Legislative Select Committee on Mental Health and Addictions. The report seeks to address the concerns of Ontarians surrounding mental health and addictions services and improve the care for the greatest number of people.

The recommendations include:

1. A new umbrella organization—Mental Health and Addictions Ontario (MHAO), responsible to the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care—should be created to ensure that a single body is responsible for designing, managing, and coordinating the mental health and addictions system in Ontario.
2. MHAO should ensure that a basket of core services is available in every region of the province for clients of all ages. Each region must also have sufficient capacity to care for clients with concurrent disorders.
3. Clients and their families should have access to system navigators who will connect them with the appropriate treatment and community support services and those with continuing, complex needs should be supported by a plan that will lead them through their journey to recovery and wellness.
4. MHAO should conduct an assessment of the need for acute care psychiatric beds for both children and adults by region.
5. MHAO should ensure that primary care providers and relevant staff in all levels of the system have access to common, age-appropriate, evidence-based assessment and screening tools.
6. MHAO should facilitate the creation of more 24/7 mobile crisis intervention teams.
7. The MOHLTC should expand and do more to publicize Telehealth Ontario's ability to respond to callers with mental health and addictions issues.

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What this Report is About cont'd

8. MHAO should work with the MOHLTC to review emergency department protocols in order to increase their capacity to deal effectively, efficiently and sensitively with patients.
9. Primary care providers should be given the proper tools and support to enable them to develop a greater sensitivity for the mental health and addictions needs of their patients.
10. All interdisciplinary primary care models should include a mental health and addictions treatment component
11. MOHLTC should immediately address the problem of addiction to prescription painkillers.
12. MOHLTC should examine further changes to the family physician remuneration model to focus on improving access to and the quality of primary care for people with mental illnesses and addictions.
13. MHAO should ensure, coordinate and advocate for the creation of additional affordable and safe housing units,
14. MHAO should ensure that institutional and community-based service providers actively seek to involve peer support workers in all aspects of service delivery.
15. MHAO should work with employers and community-based service providers on strategies to increase employment opportunities and supports for people with mental illnesses and addictions.
16. MHAO should provide for the increased availability of respite care.
17. The services of court mental health workers should be made widely available across all regions of Ontario, in order to divert more individuals with a mental illness or addiction out of the justice system and into appropriate mental health and addictions services and supports.
18. Additional Courts should be created across all regions of Ontario, to provide more appropriate services for individuals with a mental illness or addiction.
19. MCSCS should provide training for officers who may encounter people suffering from mental illnesses and addictions.
20. The core basket of mental health and addictions services should be available to the incarcerated population, and discharge plans should be expanded to include the services of a system navigator.
21. MOHLTC should create a task force to investigate and propose changes to Ontario's mental health legislation and policy pertaining to involuntary admission and treatment.
22. The task force created to investigate and propose changes to Ontario's mental health legislation and policy should also investigate and propose changes to the Personal Health Information Protection Act, 2004.
23. The Legislative Assembly of Ontario should review progress on the implementation of the recommendations in this report within two years of its adoption.

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How can this Report be Used

This report can be used as a foundational document, to spark discussion on system planning and how Ontario's mental health and addictions sector can be improved to better meet the needs of all.

Population Addressed

Ontarians with mental health and addictions concerns

Type of Study

Legislative recommendations

Key Words

Addictions, legislation, mental health, ministries, Ontario, recommendations, services, system

Contact Person/Source

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Language

Report available in [English](#) and [French](#)