Sharing Together: Developing an Evidence Priority Agenda for Ontario’s Mental Health, Substance Use & Addictions System

Canadian Knowledge Mobilization Forum 2017

Wednesday May 17th, 2017
Ottawa ON
Presenters: Alexandra Harrison & Angela Yip
Evidence Exchange Network (EENet) is a knowledge exchange network that brings together mental health and addictions stakeholders from across Ontario.
Provincial System Support Program (PSSP)

• Supports Ontario’s *Comprehensive Mental Health and Addictions Strategy*, through system interventions
• Provincial office is in Toronto with nine regional offices located throughout Ontario.
• Capacity and expertise in
  • Knowledge exchange
  • Implementation science
  • Health equity and engagement
  • Performance measurement and evaluation research
  • Information management
Goals of Sharing Together

☑ Identify **priority evidence needs** for Ontario’s mental health, substance use, and addictions system.

☑ Co-create an **evidence priority agenda**.

☑ Develop a clear plan so EENet and partners can make priority evidence needs more available and accessible!
What is an Evidence Priority Agenda?

Evidence priority agenda refers to:

• areas of opportunity and need in the mental health, substance use, and addictions system,

• which can be supported by access to, creation of, and use of evidence.
evidence

EENet recognizes that many forms of knowledge, taken together, make up evidence. These forms include:

- Research
- Professional expertise/practice-based evidence
- The lived experience of people and families
- Cultural and traditional knowledge

We also recognize that the use of evidence must take into account local contexts—and that evidence should be easy to access and use.
Sharing Together Process

**Background**
- Review priority setting documents to identify themes

**Dialogues & Survey**
- Discuss and prioritize evidence needs within identified themes

**Share findings**
- Co-create and disseminate evidence priority agenda to support knowledge exchange activities across Ontario

**Take Action**
- Respond to priority evidence needs
Dialogues across Ontario

• 7 in-person regional dialogues between January and April 2017.
• 1 virtual dialogue was held with representatives from Local Health Integration Networks.
• 236 participants
• 9 stakeholder groups
• 14 sectors
Across the eight dialogues, 11 themes were identified as priorities:

- Access to services
- Capacity building and workforce development
- Children and youth, including TAY
- Continuum of housing and homelessness
- Culturally safe and competent care that reflects cultural knowledge
- Effectiveness of services
- Harm reduction
- Integrated healthcare
- Prevention and promotion
- Standardization of care
- Supporting the voice of persons with lived experience and caregivers
“I thought that we got a lot of work done - Francophones had the opportunity to give VOICE to our reality, needs, concerns, priorities.”

“I liked the diversity of participation - often certain voices are not included”

“Small group work; collaboration between various system stakeholders. We very much enjoyed sharing our knowledge and experience and finding a common language to identify the priorities.”

“Networking, useful and productive discussions (no time wasted), feels like something will come of these discussions.”

“Table discussions were the best, so many fantastic brainstorming ideas and wisdom.”
Responding to evidence needs

Share Findings

• Develop regional summaries and share with community stakeholders.
• Co-create provincial evidence priority agenda and share with provincial partners.

Take Action

• Develop a plan to respond to evidence needs identified at regional and provincial levels.
• Leverage partnerships across Ontario to identify new and existing methods to respond to evidence needs.
Questions and contact info

Contact:
• Angela Yip, Knowledge Broker angela.yip@camh.ca
• Alexandra Harrison, Regional Knowledge Exchange Lead alexandra.harrison@camh.ca

Visit our webpage: http://www.eenet.ca/initiative/sharing-together#about