



Ontario Health

Mental Health and Addictions
Centre of Excellence

Memo

Date:

March 3, 2021

To: Ontario Mental Health and Addictions stakeholders

From: Anna Greenberg, Chief, Strategy and Planning

Re: Mental Health and Addictions Centre of Excellence

The announcement of the Mental Health and Addictions Centre of Excellence in February 2020 signalled an important step forward in the development of a provincially led, integrated system of care for patients and clients, families and their providers in Ontario. While a considerable amount of our attention over the last year has been focused on the pandemic, we continue to make steady progress on the goals set out in the [Roadmap to Wellness: A Plan to Build Ontario's Mental Health and Addictions System](#) and remain committed to building a world-class Centre of Excellence under the leadership of Ontario Health.

In the Coming Weeks

We will be reaching several key milestones in operationalizing the structure of the Centre of Excellence allowing us to move ahead in focused priority areas. It has been extraordinary to see how the sector has come together and responded to the COVID-19 pandemic. We hope we can continue this collaboration and work together on the development and implementation of an Action Plan for the Centre of Excellence (COE) that reflects our shared strategic priorities.

Over the coming weeks, we will be moving forward with the following:

- A slate of initial transfer payment agreements (TPAs) with mental health and addictions organizations, to deliver provincial programs, are in the process of being assigned to Ontario Health. These are TPAs that are currently managed by the Ministry of Health. This is consistent with the overall plan to consolidate oversight of funding and build a provincial program. The team has reached out to those organizations involved in this round of TPA transfers to ensure a seamless transition.
- With the success of the pilot phase of the Ontario Structured Psychotherapy Program, we are expanding this impactful program to reach Ontarians across the province. We will shortly be confirming an increase of Network Lead Organizations from four to ten. Regional service delivery planning will be the next step in making the six new psychotherapy networks come to life. Together, these ten networks will bring a wide range of community and hospital partners together to build out access to coordinated regional psychotherapy services across Ontario.
- Partnering with the sector, we will hold a provincial Action Plan Session to look at how mental health and addictions (MHA) will transition to a provincial program structure, the COE's planned activities in the 2021-22 fiscal year and to discuss where the sector is best positioned to come together in areas of high need to drive short-term impact.

In the Coming Months

We will continue engaging with sector stakeholders with a focus on continued and timely implementation of the government's Roadmap. Through this engagement, we will also be looking at the structures necessary for us to continue our work together and ensure we are listening to and receiving advice from partners across the system.

Core to a successful provincial program is a robust regional structure. We will be working with the Ontario Health regions and other partners on the development of connected and collaborative structures to ensure inclusive, transparent, and accountable regional planning for mental health and addictions services.

Finally, in collaboration with our colleagues in the Ministry we will be finalizing a provincial data standard for the mental health and addictions sector, and we will be delivering recommendations for its implementation beginning in the 2021/22 fiscal year. We will continue to engage with the sector to ensure we are benefiting from your experience and expertise in this area.

In Conclusion

We are excited to be sharing these important initiatives and anticipate they will build the momentum needed to drive us forward.

If we are to collectively achieve the vision of a comprehensive and connected system of high-quality mental health and addictions services in Ontario, we will be required to work together better than ever before. Your continued guidance, co-operation and support will be necessary to achieve the improvements that we know are possible for patients and families.

Please share this letter with your networks and colleagues, and, as always, if you have any feedback please let us know. We look forward to continuing to work with you.

With thanks,



Anna Greenberg

cc:

Helen Angus, Deputy Minister of Health

Melanie Fraser, Associate Deputy Minister, Health Services

Melanie Kohn, Assistant Deputy Minister, Mental Health and Addictions Division

Matthew Anderson, President & Chief Executive Officer, Ontario Health

Michelle Rossi, VP Planning and Delivery, Executive Lead, Mental Health and Addictions Centre of Excellence

Paul Kurdyak, Provincial Clinical Lead, Mental Health and Addictions Centre of Excellence

Ontario Health Transitional Regional Leads