



UPDATE FROM THE NATIONAL COALITION ON DUAL DIAGNOSIS

August 2011



Developmental Disabilities Section of the
Canadian Psychiatric Association



NADD Ontario

August, 2011

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Coalition News

Its been a while since our last update. However there have some developments on a few fronts:

- The Mental Health Commission is well on its way through the second phase of work regarding the release of a Mental Health Strategy for Canada, which is planned for early 2012. The focus of the strategy is on the following 6 directions:
 - 1) Shift Upstream and Across Sectors
 - 2) Transform Relationships and Uphold Rights
 - 3) Strengthen Community Capacity
 - 4) Improve Equity
 - 5) Seek Innovation with First Nations, Inuit and Métis
 - 6) Mobilize Leadership

The Coalition was invited to participate in one of a series of stakeholder meetings in June 2011. We were included in a group of about 20 national organizations such as the Mood Disorders Society, Canadian Medical Association, Canadian Mental Health Association and Canadian Association for Substance Abuse. A handful of other such sessions occurred with government representatives, service organizations and those with lived experience.

A draft confidential report was circulated ahead of time for input during the one day session. We were asked to comment on the directions as a whole, to identify strengths and improvements for each strategic direction, and to identify implementation issues, including critical considerations for the rollout and uptake of the strategy. As anticipated, the strategy is at a high level, and is reliant primarily on change at the provincial level, where the actual funding and most mental health policy is derived. Overall, participants' in the national organization session held a positive view that the proposed Strategy would contribute to transforming the mental health system. Various recommendations were made to help sharpen certain aspects and address gap areas in the document. Accompanying the MHCC strategy will also be a business case and funding proposal for investing in mental and an indicator framework for monitoring outcomes.

- In the last Coalition Update it was noted that the our next step was to produce information that articulates in concrete and real terms what is required at a national level to improve the life of individuals living with dual diagnosis. Through the financial support primarily of from NADD Ontario, and a small contribution from the

CAMH Dual Diagnosis Program, the Coalition struck an international panel to help us further articulate the Coalition message. An international scan of legislation and policies informed the development of recommendations for federal leadership and action.

This document is currently being reviewed for approval by the four sponsoring organizations and will be made available to Coalition membership in October. - November. This will be followed with a communication and advocacy strategy to coincide with the release of the Mental Health Strategy.

Provincial Mental Health Strategies

In the last update we reported on the release of BC's new mental health strategy (www.health.gov.bc.ca). Since then, two more provinces have also released new strategies. Manitoba's is called Rising to the Challenge: A strategic plan for the mental health and well-being of Manitobans (<http://www.gov.mb.ca/health/mh/challenge.html>). Ontario's is called Open Minds, Health Minds: Ontario's Comprehensive Mental Health and Addiction Strategy. <http://news.ontario.ca/mcys/en/2011/06/ontarios-comprehensive-mental-health-and-addictions-strategy.html>

The Manitoba strategy makes no reference to intellectual/developmental disability, or dual diagnosis.

The Ontario strategy refers to dual diagnosis through 2 examples of agencies that provide comprehensive mental health and addiction services. Of note in the Ontario document is the acknowledgement that strong leadership at the provincial and local level requires coordination across ministries and sectors. One of the strategies to achieve this will be to include the Strategy as a standing item of the Deputy Ministers' Social Policy Committee where the development of common performance measures and accountabilities will be addressed. The Ontario government has established child and youth mental health as the priority for the first 3 years. The goals are:

- Providing children, youth and families with fast access to high quality services;
- Identifying and intervening in child and youth mental health issues early;
- Closing critical service gaps for vulnerable children and youth, children and youth at key transition points, and those in remote communities.

It is not yet clear how intellectual/developmental disabilities and particularly transitional age issues fit within this priority. Additionally with a provincial election in the October, this focus may not be sustained.

Mental Health Commission Update

http://www.teenmentalhealth.org/images/uploads/Evergreen_Framework_english.pdf

Some of you will recall that representatives of the Coalition were members of the Evergreen National Advisory Committee and facilitated input to the Evergreen Project. The

publication - Evergreen: A Child and Youth Mental Health Framework for Canada is available at the above link. It is organized into 4 areas: Promotion, Prevention, Intervention & Ongoing Care and Research & Evaluation. Within each is a list of more specific strategic directions. It is a document that is intended for use by governments, institutions and organizations to help develop child and youth mental health and initiatives and to assist young people, parents, professionals and others in informing their thoughts, choices and priorities regarding child and youth mental health policies, plans, programs and services. Many of the proposed strategies are relevant to the child and youth population living with dual diagnosis.

<http://www.mentalhealthcommission.ca/annualreport/> MHCC Annual Report, 2010/11. Provides a good overview of their various initiatives and what you can anticipate next year.

Resource information

<http://www.surreyplace.on.ca/Clinical-Programs/Medical-Services/Pages/PrimaryCare.aspx>

The Developmental Disabilities Primary Care Initiative web site. Provides on line access to the Canadian Consensus Guidelines, physical health tools, health watch tables and a behavioural and mental health toolbox. While directed at primary care providers (e.g. physicians, nurses) some of the tools are quite appropriate for use by community providers such as the Essential Information for the Emergency Department. There's also a nice one page Guide About Emergencies for Caregivers.

<http://www.srchc.com/engagingwomenincancerscreening>

Canadian publication on improving access to equitable healthcare and screening participation across the country for all women. Includes a section on developmental disabilities.

Regards to all

Susan Morris
Chair, National Coalition on Dual Diagnosis Clinical Director
Dual Diagnosis Program
416-535-8501 Ext. 1136

Susan.Morris@camh.net