

Central West LHIN

Mental Health and Addiction Services

Extended Action Group

Terms of Reference

Purpose

The Extended Action Group will ensure that the full range of stakeholders receiving or providing mental health and addiction services in the Central West LHIN is engaged in moving forward with the Action Steps related to the Mental Health and Addiction Services priority outlined in the initial Integrated Health Services Plan.

To start, the Central West LHIN will focus on those Action Steps identified in the IHSP to be undertaken or started in Year 1 (April 1 2007 – March 31 2008).

The Extended Action Group will be brought together at regular intervals during the year to provide advice and assist the Central West LHIN, and the Mental Health and Addiction Services Core Action Group made up of health service organizations that will be funded by and have service agreements with the Central West LHIN.

The Extended Action Group will ensure the perspectives of representative consumers, family groups, and individual practitioners, as well as health service providers not located within or funded by the Central West LHIN that provide significant levels of mental health and addiction service to residents of the Central West LHIN.

Major Activities

Based on the IHSP, the Extended Action Group's activities for 2007-2008 include providing advice, assistance, input and feedback to the Central West LHIN on:

- community engagement and communications
- comprehensive inventory of mental health and addiction services
- identified integration initiatives.

Community Engagement and Communications

Fundamental to the work of the LHIN and moving forward with the Action Steps of the IHSP is the engagement of health service providers, consumers, family groups, members of the public, and individual practitioners, to receive their input

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and feedback in planning and the implementation of initiatives that improve the integration and access to mental health and addiction services. The level and type of community engagement may vary across projects.

The Extended Action Group will provide advice and assist the Central West LHIN to ensure:

- appropriate approaches to engage specific communities for specific projects
- inclusive and transparent processes
- timely and accurate information about priority activities is available
- support on-going communication among stakeholders.

A geographic area approach may be necessary to gain insight on the similarities and differences across the region.

Comprehensive Inventory of Services

The development of the comprehensive inventory of services will help the LHIN, local providers, and the community, to:

- understand the mental health and addiction services available in the Central West LHIN
- identify needs / gaps in local services
- identify integration opportunities that may exist across providers
- develop capacity to meet identified needs / gaps.

The Extended Action Group will provide advice and assist the Central West LHIN on the development of the current inventory of services mental health and addiction available to the residents of the LHIN.

A summary document will present the current inventory of services.

This information will be vital to the development of a publicly accessible, comprehensive inventory of local services.

Identified Integration Projects

The documentation of current integration activities will assist the LHIN in understanding the current environment and activities that have been undertaken to improve the integration of mental health and addiction services to the residents of the Central West LHIN.

Fundamental work of the LHIN will be the development of integration opportunities that will improve the access to mental health and addiction services for the residents of the Central West LHIN.

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The Extended Action Group will provide advice and assist the Central West LHIN on the development and implementation of integration initiatives to improve the access to mental health and addiction services to the residents of the LHIN. This may be by working on project action teams focused on specific integration initiatives.

Best Practice Research and Knowledge Transfer

Local health service providers and the LHIN will need to stay current with best practice services delivery models and with new provincial initiatives, strategies, and guidelines.

In carrying out its activities, the Extended Action Group will be expected to reference best practices that lead to more integrated mental health and addiction services. The Extended Action Group will support the exchange of knowledge and sharing of best practices amongst LHIN stakeholders.

Extended Action Group Members

The Extended Action Group will be comprised of:

- representative consumers
- family groups
- individual practitioners
- health service providers that provide significant levels of mental health and addiction service to the residents of Central West LHIN but are not located within the LHIN
- health service providers in the Central West LHIN that do not have a primary role in providing mental health and addiction services but may see a significant number of individuals with mental health and addiction issues
- mental health and addiction service providers in the Central West LHIN that will be funded by and have service accountability agreements with the Central West LHIN

Meetings

Meetings will be held at least twice annually at the call of the LHIN.

Chair

Co-chairpersons will be appointed by the LHIN.

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Decision-Making

The Extended Action Group will provide advice to the Central West LHIN based on consultation sessions. As such, advice will be built upon consensus based on the best interests of mental health and addiction service consumers in the LHIN.

Where consensus cannot be reached, the Extended Action Group will present a summary of the deliberations to the LHIN.

Duration

These terms of reference will be reviewed and updated prior to the beginning of the 2008-2009 fiscal year.