

Mental Health and Addictions Decision Support Working Group
Terms of Reference
September 29, 2009

PURPOSE

This group has been proposed by the Gap Analysis Advisory Committee. This group will oversee the operationalization of the Data Enhancement Plan that has been recommended to address the gaps in MHA and addictions related data – with respect to improvement in data quality, collection, and monitoring and measurement of system performance. The group which has a cross-cutting strategic function includes the main decision support people from Toronto Central LHIN mental health and addictions service providers (hospital and community) as well as strategic planners and researchers. The Working Group will contribute directly to shaping decisions for the TC LHIN second Integrated Health Service Plan (IHSP-2) for 2010-2012. As well, it will contribute to the longer term planning for the priority mental health and addictions priority populations (homeless, seniors, children and youth, Aboriginal peoples, and immigrants and refugees) that have been selected by the Gap Analysis Advisory Committee.

Determining the best way to incorporate equity into performance measurement and management systems within the TC LHIN, and developing approaches towards a coordinated data collection strategy are key recommendations emerging from the analysis of the hospital health equity reports completed in summer 2009. It is also critical to think about indicators at the system level as well as at the individual agency or hospital level. As such, the MHA Decision Support Working Group's deliverables/recommendations will serve as a pilot demonstration project towards a more comprehensive approach to developing equity data and indicators, across the LHIN. Many individuals living with mental health and addictions are also impacted by other factors which can be barriers to good health such as homelessness, poverty, low education, immigration and refugee status, among others, which makes the MHA sector particularly amenable to an equity focus.

SCOPE OF WORK

The Working Group will focus on the following deliverables:

1. Provide advice on monitoring and measuring performance of the system, including recommendations for measuring equity.
 - a. Provide input on selection of MHA related indicators for the TC LHIN IHSP-2
 - b. Continued development and refinement of the indicators based on Steering Committee feedback as well as results of the Provincial MHA Strategy indicator selection process.
2. Identify gaps and data quality issues in available MHA data related to the five priority populations (homeless, seniors, children and youth, Aboriginal peoples, and immigrants and refugees).
3. Identify opportunities that will support MHA service providers in improving and standardizing data collection as well as using the data for the five priority populations.
4. Provide advice on additional analyses required for TC LHIN to determine baseline capacity of MHA resources for the five priority populations and to understand gaps and unmet needs in the priority populations and areas.
5. Identify solutions for the above areas and make recommendations for implementing the identified solutions.

TERM

The Working Group will begin deliberations in summer 2009 for a period of six months, ending March 31st, 2009. At this time, deliverables/objectives, timelines and working group composition will be reviewed and revised as necessary.

MEMBERSHIP

The Working Group members will include key Decision Support people from TC LHIN organizations (hospital and community sectors), as well as strategic planners and other relevant stakeholders e.g. researchers in addictions and mental health, priority populations, equity, performance monitoring and measurement. Membership will also reflect other ongoing initiatives such as the MH ER Alliance, Provincial MHA Strategy. The Working Group has the option of consulting other key stakeholders with expertise in relevant areas on an adhoc basis.

ACCOUNTABILITY

The Working Group is accountable to the Toronto Central LHIN MHA Steering Committee and the Toronto Central LHIN.