



TORONTO EAST
GENERAL HOSPITAL



News Release

For Immediate Release

May 5, 2014

MOBILE CRISIS INTERVENTION TEAMS TO BE AVAILABLE ACROSS TORONTO More help available to people experiencing a mental health crisis

Toronto – Mobile Crisis Intervention Teams (MCITs) comprising of a mental health nurse and police officer, specially-trained in crisis intervention, will soon be available to serve people facing a mental health crisis across the city of Toronto, seven days a week.

MCITs are a partnership between the Toronto Police Service (TPS) and participating hospitals including, Toronto East General Hospital, Humber River Hospital, North York General Hospital, St. Michael's Hospital, St. Joseph Health Centre and The Scarborough Hospital. Working together, a mental health nurse and police officer assess the needs of a person in an emotional or mental health crisis and connect them with the most appropriate services. Each MCIT covers a particular TPS Division and additionally helps to de-escalate and avert injury to police, nurse and person in crisis and reduce pressure on the justice and health care systems.

MCITs respond to crisis calls from those thinking of suicide or harming themselves or those demonstrating distorted or psychotic thinking, anxiety and overwhelming depression.

A [recent report](#) by the Centre for Research on Inner City Health (CRICH) of St. Michael's Hospital revealed that the partnership between the police and the mental health nurse is having a positive effect on those who were affected by a mental health crisis:

- People in crisis were provided compassionate care and given a voice in their own care;
- MCITs are helping to respond to more people in an emotional crisis;
- MCITs are helping to keep care in the community, preventing unnecessary admission to the ED and into the justice system.

Police are usually the first responders to mental health emergencies in the community. In 2011, the TPS were dispatched to almost 20,000 calls related to a mental health crisis. To better address this issue, the first Toronto-based MCIT was formed in 2000.

To read the full *Toronto Mobile Crisis Intervention Team (MCIT) Program Implementation Evaluation Final Report*, please visit www.crich.ca/reports/mcit.

QUOTES

"The Toronto Police Service has worked hard with its health-sector partners to build up a network of Mobile Crisis Intervention Teams across Toronto. They have one purpose: provide the best possible help and support to those experiencing a mental health crisis. I want to extend my thanks and appreciation to all our partners for their dedication and commitment."

Deputy Chief Michael Federico, Toronto Police Service, Co-Chair, City of Toronto MCIT Program Implementation Steering Committee

"I'm proud of the collaboration between the police, the TC LHIN and local hospitals in helping to improve the access to services and resources for those experiencing a mental health and emotional crisis. At Toronto East General Hospital, we've noticed that our MCIT is having a positive impact on our community and that lives have been improved as a direct result of the intervention of the team."

Rob Devitt, CEO Toronto East General Hospital, Co-Chair, City of Toronto MCIT Program Implementation Steering Committee.

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