

**Provincial
Mental Health and Addictions
Advisory Council**

Annual Report

April 1, 2016 – March 31, 2017

MESSAGE FROM THE INTERIM CHAIR

In accordance with the *Transparency and Accountability Act*, I am pleased to present the 2016 – 2017 Annual Report for the Provincial Mental Health and Addictions Advisory Council (the Council). The Council is a Category Three (3) government entity under the *Transparency and Accountability Act* and plans and reports under these requirements.

As interim Chair, my signature below acknowledges that the Provincial Mental Health and Addictions Advisory Council is accountable for the actual results reported.

With the release of *Towards Recovery: A Vision for a Renewed Mental Health and Addictions System for Newfoundland and Labrador*, the Provincial Government is embarking on what I believe to be one of its most important endeavours. That is, transforming the mental health and addictions system into one that is integrated, person centered and recovery focused. As a Council, we have been tasked with providing oversight for the implementation of the recommendations of the All-Party Committee on Mental Health and Addictions, and we are honoured to play a key role in this work.

I wish to extend a sincere thank you to all members of the Council for their dedication to the issues of mental health and addictions. On behalf of the Council, I would also like to extend our appreciation for the efforts of staff within the Department of Health and Community Services for their support in making our work possible.

Sincerely,



Sheldon Pollett, Interim Chair
Provincial Mental Health and Addictions Advisory Council

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Overview

The Provincial Mental Health and Addictions Advisory Council (the Council) was established in June 2010 to advise the Minister of Health and Community Services on key mental health and addictions matters in order to enhance services and improve the lives of those living with mental health and addictions issues.

Membership

Appointments to the Mental Health and Addictions Advisory Council are made in accordance with Section 25 of the Public Service Commission Act utilizing the merit-based approach as required by the Act. Membership, including the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson, are appointed by the Minister from a list provided by the Public Service Commission. Membership consists of not less than 15 and not more than 20 members in accordance with the Council's Terms of Reference.

Funding

The work of the Council is supported by the Mental Health and Addictions Division, Department of Health and Community Services.

Meetings are scheduled every two months or as required. The Council does not maintain a separate office; support and secretariat services are provided by the Mental Health and Addictions Division, 1st Floor, West Block, Confederation Building, St. John's.

Objectives 2014-2017

The Provincial Mental Health and Addictions Advisory Council provides support to the Minister of Health and Community Services in an advisory capacity. As such, the following objective, measure and indicators have guided the direction of the Council for the period April 1, 2014, to March 31, 2017, and are reported on in each year covered by the plan (2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17).

Issue: Addressing Emerging Issues in Mental Health and Addictions

According to the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH), in any given year, one in five Canadians will experience a mental health or addiction problem. In Newfoundland and Labrador, mental illness and addictions continue to impact our communities, and while the overall issue is constant, emerging issues tend to fluctuate. In the last few years for example, we have seen an increase in the use of opioids, particularly fentanyl, which has led to a number of overdose-related deaths in the province. Based on the changing needs of the population, the Council provided the Minister key information to inform on emerging mental health and addictions issues. The Council also applied its expertise and made recommendations to Government-led initiatives related to mental health and addictions.

During the 2016-17 year, the Council met with the Minister of Health and Community Services on one occasion to provide commentary and recommendations/advice on priority mental health and addictions issues.

Annual Objective

By March 31, 2017, the Provincial Mental Health and Addictions Advisory Council will have provided commentary and recommendations to the Minister of Health and Community Services on addressing priority mental health and addictions issues.

Measure: Provided commentary and recommendations.

Indicator	Outcome
Obtained expert and group member expertise	During 2016-17, the Council continued to utilize the combined expertise of its members during its meetings, through email and also by sharing documents for review and discussion on key topics.
Invited community groups and other organizations to present information	In 2016-17, rather than inviting community groups and others to present to the Council, Council members presented to the All-Party Committee on Mental Health and Addictions. Additionally, by virtue of the roles that many Council members play in their professional lives, several of them also presented to the All-Party Committee on behalf of their employer organizations.
Prioritized advice provided to the Minister	The Council prioritized advice to provide to the Minister on many areas related to mental health and addictions. Priority topics included: promotion, prevention and early intervention; continuum of care and continuity of care; improved access; the recovery approach; services supporting youth and transitional youth; and quality and measuring progress.
Identified target audience for government initiatives related to mental health and addiction	The Council identified key target audiences for the All-Party Committee on Mental Health and Addictions. Particularly, those who the Council believes are experiencing gaps in mental health and addictions treatment and services.
Made recommendations to government-led mental health and addictions initiatives	The Council provided three key recommendations for consideration by the All-Party Committee (APC) on Mental Health and Addictions for inclusion in the Committee's final report. The recommendations were: supporting vulnerable individuals and families; promoting positive mental health and well-being while preventing and intervening early for mental health issues, problematic substance use, mental illness and addiction; and, establish an accountability council or mechanism to oversee the implementation of the APC's recommendations.

Appendix A: Provincial Mental Health and Addictions Advisory Membership

Name	Current Experience
Sheldon Pollett	Interim Chair, Community Service Provider - Youth
Angela Crockwell	Community Service Provider - Youth
Angie Wilmott	Schools Guidance Counsellor/Psychologist
Dave Banko	Community Service Provider
Des Coombs	Psychologist
Dr. Greg Radu	Psychiatrist, START Clinic, Eastern Health
Dr. Ted Callanan	Professor, Psychiatrist, START Clinic, Eastern Health
George Skinner	Social worker, Community Advocate
Lisa Browne	Community Service Provider
Mark Gruchy	Lived Experience, Community Coalition
Mary Walsh	Actor/ Social Activist
Michelle Kinney	Nunatsiavut Government; Northern Region
Patrick Hickey	Youth Advocate
Paul Thomey	Community Service Provider, Local Business Owner
Paula Corcoran-Jacobs	Lived Experience, Community Service Provider
Peter Cornish	University Professor/Researcher
Peter Ralph	Lived Experience
Rita Notarandrea	National Organization, Canadian Centre on Substance Use and Addiction
Thelma Whelan	Education Consultant; Western Region

Provincial Mental Health and Addictions Advisory Council
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