

Ministry of Children and Youth
Services
Youth Justice Services Division



Youth Mental Health Court Worker
Program

Our Time * Their Space Forum

April 24, 2009

London



Journey Motif

THE EVOLUTION OF THE YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH COURT WORKER: THE SUCCESSFUL JOURNEY FROM A SERVICE ENHANCEMENT IDEA TO THE YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH COURT

- A brief overview of the program, its partnerships and its status as a community based alternative to the justice system for youth with mental health needs will be provided.



Presentation Points

- A brief overview of the program
- Program Partnerships
- Status as a community based alternative for youth with mental health needs



A Brief Program Overview

- MoHLTC lead Service Enhancements initiative to divert people with mental health issues from the justice system
- Emphasis placed on “upstream” initiatives to reduce pressure on police, remand beds and emergency departments
- Mental health court workers seen to be a significant benefit to transitional age youth and an aid to court diversion



YMHCW Program Rationale

- Facilitates the diversion of youth whose primary issues are related to mental health, not criminal behaviour
- Respond to needs of older youth who are consistently identified as “falling between the cracks”
- Supports MCYS continuum of integrated services
- Supports continuity of service bridging youth who cross-over to adult mental health system
- Expand and develop community partnerships



Program Design: Flow Through Model

- Flow through Model supports larger initiative to reduce systems pressures
- Provides supports to Youth Justice Court for transitional aged youth 16 years and older with mental health needs.
- Functions as a short-term “bridge” between CJS and CMH
- Facilitates the diversion of youth out of the criminal justice system to CMH



Program Partnerships

- The YMHCW program has a distinctive collaborative aspect that sets it apart from standard programs as it depends on the cooperation of:
- Three primary ministerial partners, MCYS, MAG and MOHLTC
- An operational partnership with MOHLTC and MAG
- MCYS regional management and local probation services
- Local service providers and their referral services
- Court House staff



Program Partnerships cont...

Mental Health Courts for Youth London and Ottawa

- Confluence of Emerging Programming
- Naturally Integrated mutually supportive structure
- Reduces majority of programming issues
- Provides Program Continuity, Efficient, Effective provision of services
- Advocate mental health court Youth model



Implementation Evaluation Report Update

- Process, Contents, Distribution & Criteria
 - Programs offered are designed and implemented as proposed
 - Implementation information: challenges and barriers & successful strategies
 - Identify best practices and lessons learned regionally or provincially
 - Identify strategies or policies to improve YSD implementation of future programs
- Not to determine the quality of service or the comparative level of success of individual programs



Implementation Evaluation

13 Agency Specific Reports

- Agency Overview
- Program Delivery Model
- Challenges & Successful Strategies
- Program Details to March 31,2008
- Types of Referral Services
- Interview Summaries
- Report Summary
- Local Recommendations
- Notable Practices



Implementation Evaluation Report Release

- 2 complete years of operation
 - To March 31/2008 provided services to 1148
 - 800 males and 348 females
 - Nearly 3000 issues to be addressed
- Report has been presented to ADM and Divisional Management Committee
 - Process and Next Steps
 - Provincial Discussion with our agency partners at Forum



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