



London Family
Court Clinic



2023-2024
Annual Report

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**Caring communities.
Resilient children & families.
Beyond the justice system.**



Better outcomes. Brighter futures.

Children, youth, and families involved in the justice system are at a major turning point in their lives. London Family Court Clinic follows children, youth and their families connected to the justice system through their journey—giving them the tools they need to build their resiliency—helping them to move forward and realize better outcomes once beyond the justice system.

We are advocates.

We strive to push the justice system to be more sensitive and responsive to children, youth, and their families. Another major focus of our work is assisting children, youth and their families who are at risk of being in the justice system to find solutions, because the best outcomes are the ones that don't involve going to court.

We acknowledge that no one organization can solve all the challenges of children, youth, and families. The broader solution rests in developing caring communities that work together to support and inspire one another in their life's journey. We're creating and nurturing caring communities through the work we do because caring communities are inclusive, safe, engaged, and strive to improve the wellbeing of one another.

Message from Our Executive Director

I am pleased to present to you our Annual General Report for the fiscal year of April 1, 2023 – March 31st, 2024. As we reflect on the past year, it is evident that our organization has persevered through various challenges, emerging stronger and more resilient. This report serves as a testament to our commitment to excellence in clinical service delivery, program support and organizational sustainability.

Resiliency stands as a cornerstone of our operations, enabling us to adapt swiftly to the evolving landscape of child and youth mental health services, and youth justice. In the face of unprecedented challenges, including continued global pandemic effects and economic uncertainties, LFCC remained committed in its mission to build resiliency within our clients. Through strategic and effective risk management, and a resilient workforce, we navigated through adversity while maintaining operational continuity.

Financial stability remains a focal point of our organizational strategy. Despite the economic uncertainties brought forth by external factors and continuous funding realignment; by adhering to sound financial principles and leveraging opportunities for creating efficiencies in internal management and financial controls; we continue to fortify our financial position, enabling us to continue investing in our infrastructure, talent, processes and ultimately how we deliver exemplary service quality. Despite funding realignment, our commitment to our community service remains unwavering. With some road left to travel after unexpected setbacks, we have navigated numerous complexities to create insight, agility, and linear projections for future forward financial strength.

Staff engagement and retention remains paramount to our success. Our dedicated team of professionals embodies our organizational values, driving excellence in care. Through consistent professional development, and open communication channels, we foster a culture of collaboration, innovation, and inclusivity. An engaged and valued workforce is the bedrock of our organization, empowering us to deliver superior services to our community. Our outcomes remain strong and sustainable.

However, these outcomes are not without consequences. Compassion fatigue, mental health and full dockets for case management and trials are real-world concerns as we continue to work at high levels – essentially, we are asked to do more with less. Our teams relentlessly pursue excellence on the frontlines and in the back office of LFCC's support and business administration team. As we look ahead, we remain steadfast in our commitment to advancing clinical excellence, driving innovation, and fostering resilience in the face of uncertainty; we must also look through the lens of taking care of each other to ensure our own safety and well-being in the face of increasing demands. Collaborative peer support and open doors to discussions about well-being guided by our core values and fueled by the dedication of our team; we are confident in our ability to overcome challenges and seize opportunities for growth and transformation personally and professionally.



Message from **Our Executive Director**

I want to personally thank each team member. We see and speak to each other daily. The size of our Agency creates opportunities for genuine engagement. You recognize how I feel about each of you because you hear me tell you directly. My commitment to each of you is to keep our engagement high; our doors open and our capacity to lean into taking those extra steps for care on the forefront. Though there has been significant change since I started in early 2022 with LFCC; you have demonstrated resilience and strength in the face of change; and exceeded my expectations. It hasn't been easy but you have demonstrated your commitment with grace and I am grateful for all of you. You've taught me so much about myself, this work and the importance of belief on so many different levels.

Lastly, this year we reached a significant milestone, our fiftieth anniversary. I extend my gratitude to our Board of Directors, stakeholders, clients, the justice system and its staff, our employees, funding partners, and the community, for their unwavering support and trust in LFCC over these years. Together, we will continue to make a meaningful difference in the lives of the individuals we serve. Thank you for your continued confidence in me and the entire team at LFCC and here's to fifty more.



Executive Director, London Family Court Clinic & Beacon House CYAC

Message from Our Board President

It is my pleasure to once again contribute to this year's Annual Report. I continue to be impressed with the professionalism of the LFCC staff, leadership and that of our Board members. As I reflect on our 2023- 2024 year, I can't help but think of one of my favourite metaphors...that of a small sailing ship on the seas navigating changing winds and turbulent waters but always heading for a desired destination. Our destination: "Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures" for children, youth and families involved in the justice system.

Our journey to "Renew, Rethink and Rebuild our organization has been met with unprecedented challenges this year, including continued global pandemic recovery, Ministry funding realignment and economic uncertainties. However, we have forged through these challenges and are emerging a stronger, resilient, more efficient and financially accountable organization. We have appreciated the ongoing support of our staff and leadership, board members and our various Ministry funders and program supervisors as we have navigated this journey.

LFCC continues to value our many community partnerships. Our board of directors are very proud of the success that NavOn continues to achieve as a new social enterprise organization. We are also proud to be part of Beacon House, Child and Youth Advocacy Center in partnership with London Police Services, St. Joseph's Healthcare and Children's Aid Society London-Middlesex. Since the launch in February 2023 almost 200 youth have received services.

Our Board of Directors has grown once again this year welcoming two new members to our team: Helen Mahabir and George Skikos. I am truly blessed to work with such a great team of professionals, totally committed to supporting and building a sustainable and strong LFCC. We are incredibly impressed with the leadership our Executive Director Tuhin Jajal has demonstrated this year in navigating the LFCC through turbulent waters to calmer seas and brighter skies.

This year marks the fiftieth anniversary since the beginning of LFCC. On behalf of the Board, I would like to extend my appreciation to all the staff and leadership who've guided us here and who have demonstrated resiliency and fortitude through the challenges and focused on what they do best: excellence in clinical services for children, youth and families.

In summary, I would like to acknowledge and thank each board member, Tuhin and the senior leadership team, all staff, community partners and our funders for their continued support, commitment and service. Together we all contribute to LFCC's vision: "Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures."



Mary Ann Tucker

Board President, London Family Court Clinic

Judge Genest Fund

London Family Court Clinic continues to be honoured to administer the Judge Genest Fund and are inspired by Judge Genest's belief in youth and their ability to improve their lives. Judge Maurice Genest believed that young people who are struggling in our community deserve to be provided with opportunities for growth. He believed that with a bit of care and attention we could all help to nurture and support the hopes and dreams of these youth in our community. Through an annual gift received in memory of Judge Genest, London Family Court Clinic is able to assist youth in very real and meaningful ways.



Since 2008, the Judge Genest Fund has had requests to address the needs of over 160 young people who are involved with our local court affiliated services. The Judge Genest Fund can offset the cost of activities and needs that would otherwise not be affordable for these young people – which can often present barriers to their progress in life.

The Judge Genest Fund provides identified youth with financial assistance to improve their daily lives and to help them reach some of their goals – such as becoming healthier and involved in sports again, gaining employment, and achieving new skills. Over the years, youth have received funds for a variety of needs including: gym memberships, yoga instruction and sports team fees, job supplies such as special eye wear or work boots, fees associated with getting personal identification replaced or a driver's license; certification programs such as food handling or first aid courses, and artistic class costs for art, music or dance.



The focus of need is meant to address the well-being and personal betterment of youth and to support their prosocial involvements in their community life. Judge Genest's legacy of caring deeply and believing in the young people we serve continues to be evident through the Genest Fund.

Frank Brennan Award

Each year the Frank Brennan Award, named in tribute to a fondly remembered colleague from the early days of the London Family Court Clinic, is awarded to a peer working in the social services sector. Frank was 65 when he joined us and, to our great loss, he died five years later. He brought years of wisdom gained as a probation officer but also the legacy of a rich and remarkable life that included the experience of fighting in the Spanish Civil War, where he met Ernest Hemingway.

Frank, with his literate style and humorous nature, made his mark both on the children he counseled and the community he served. Like Frank, the recipients of the award that bears his name provide exemplary service to local children and families in crisis.

They work within their own organizations and participate in broader community initiatives to exemplify the qualities for which Frank is remembered: compassion, integrity, respectful treatment of clients, effective communication, dedication to advocacy, and support to colleagues. With respect for Frank's strong sense of humanity, we continue to honour his life amongst us.



This year's Frank Brennan award is presented to Ben Maessen. Ben has worked in a variety of different settings including youth secure custody, residential treatment, community addictions, including London Drug Treatment Court, youth mental health services, federal and provincial half-way houses, and child welfare. He has been in his current position as a School Social Worker and Attendance Counsellor with the Thames Valley District School Board for over 10 years. Ben has a passion for working with youth in conflict with the law and has been a welcome addition to the Youth Therapeutic Court Team, working as the Youth Court Engagement Worker for TVDSB for the past 4 years. Ben is also the Social Worker for the U-Turn program, a program for suspended and expelled students for the last two years.

Ben has consistently demonstrated a deep commitment to the well-being of our clients and their families, offering invaluable support and guidance during times of need. His compassionate approach, combined with his experience in mental health and social services, has made a profound impact on the lives of those he serves. Ben's unwavering dedication to fostering a positive, inclusive environment within schools, and his advocacy for vulnerable youth, embody the very spirit of the Frank Brennan Award. We are honored to recognize his exceptional contributions to the community.



Wayne Willis Award

The Wayne Willis Award was begun in 2013 in recognition of youth whose progress and efforts in the past year demonstrate a commitment to education/skill development, personal growth and community involvement.

A young person's ability to persevere in the face of challenges is celebrated as part of this award; it represents success, resiliency and healthy choices.

Wayne Willis, for whom the award is named, was a clinician at London Family Court Clinic for over 40 years and he guided hundreds of young people over the years.

This award is a way to recognize both Wayne for his years of dedication as well as the many amazing young people who continue to be involved with London Family Court Clinic.



Wayne Willis became the first-ever employee at London Family Court Clinic after being sought out by Judge Genest in 1974.

The selected youth is recognized for taking significant steps toward changing the direction of their lives. Last year's recipient, K, attended the award presentation during our December staff meeting and reminded us of the power of resilience, strong and consistent supports, and perseverance.

Below is a summary of our staff's nomination. Since working with K she started to commit to healthy changes and in her words, "I want to get better and live a life I am proud of." K refrained from any form of self-harm and substance use as well as from yelling at staff. She became involved in expressive and healthy behaviours such as drawing, baking, and making bracelets at the group home. She engaged in weekly one-on-one counselling sessions and utilized those sessions and learnings on her journey to become a better version of herself. Currently, she is successfully passing and achieving high marks in her high school courses. On another positive note, K's teachers are writing encouraging and positive comments on how well she is doing. This improvement is a dramatic shift from rarely attending school and having a history of multiple suspensions ranging from rule breaking to aggressive behaviours. K also worked toward moving back home and repairing relationships with her family, who proudly attended along with her, at the award ceremony. As always, the Wayne Willis Award is given and received with great pride. We were so pleased to have the opportunity to acknowledge K's achievements in this way and are proud of the person she continues to become. We congratulate K and continue to wish her well as journey to wellness and betterment continues.

We thank the London Community Foundation for the financial support of this award through the Judge Maurice Genest funds.

Cheers to K – keep up the good work!

Alan Leschied Award

Last year, our psychology residency was fully accredited by the Canadian Psychological Association (CPA), retroactive to the 2022-2023 academic year. Upon formal accreditation, we renamed the London Child, Youth, Family, and Forensic Psychology Consortium with something much better and far more whimsical! We are now the Narwhal Psychology Consortium – a partnership between NavOn, MJWCYDC, and LFCC. Each year since its inception, we have given an award to recognize the spirit of true relationship-focused dedication to training. In honour of LFCC psychologist emeritus, Dr. Alan Leschied, who embodies the spirit of kindness and inclusive mentorship, we give The Alan Leschied Award (aka “the Alan”) to a Narwhal contributor who most embodies this spirit – someone who is a true “unicorn” – a mentor, teacher, or supervisor who was there for the learner cohort in just the way they needed at just the right time.

This year, there were three nominations for the award. Our runners-up were: Dr. Brent Hyman-Abello, director of clinical training for the larger London Psychology Consortium. Dr. Hyman-Abello graciously championed our residency to his colleagues and to CPA to ensure our 2023-2024 cohort-of-one could attend didactic sessions and gain valuable socialization with other residents at the London Health Sciences Centre; and a community actor, Mr. Bill Templeton. Mr. Templeton donated his time to our learners to act as a standardized patient during training on autism spectrum disorders and engaged in various role-plays with our students to train them on a specialized diagnostic assessment measure for this disorder. Our learners reflected on these as highlights of their year and learning unique learning experiences that enriched their development, and which they were unable to get at other practicum sites.



The winner of this year's Alan Leschied Award is psychologist, Dr. Amanda Kerry of Western University. Dr. Kerry runs a specialized group treatment program for young refugees and their families that focuses on acclimating to London, ON., and supporting their mental health and wellness. This tailored group intervention is called the STRONG program and run in partnership with the Mary J. Wright Child Development Centre and other community partners. Dr. Kerry ensured the STRONG program ran smoothly even though she was brought in at the last minute. She used a strength-based approach to feedback, allowing students to build on their strengths and feel more confident. She also made sure her supervision was tailored to the students' needs and interests, and she offered valuable extra training opportunities outside of supervision meetings. She clearly went above and beyond to ensure our resident not only received the clinical contact hours and supervision she required, but knocked it out of the park in terms of creating a healthy relationship space in which true learning could take place.

Thank you, Dr. Amanda Kerry, for embodying the spirit of our residency program!

-Narwhal Staff and Resident Donia Tong

Statistics



Here's a breakdown of the statistics of active programs and services at London Family Court Clinic in the 2023-2024 year.

129

Families referred to ADR services
through ADR-Link

228

Children referred to Child Witness
Project

144

Families referred to Beacon House
Child & Youth Advocacy Centre

148

CSP Counselling Clients

45

CSP Plan of Care Meetings

19

CSP Special Consultations

70

Youth Therapeutic Court Clients

29

Youth Therapeutic Court Diverted
Clients

46

Youth Justice Section 34s
Assesments

ADR-Link & Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR)

Alternative Dispute Resolution had another successful year of service to families and youth during this period. The people we serve are generally referred by CAS when communications break down between family members, caregivers, children, CAS staff or any combination of these groups.

Our professional roster members help to keep the focus of everyone on the best interest of the children – keeping them safe and well cared for by adults that are supportive, responsible and respectful.

Referrals from 8 Children's Aid Societies and 10 First Nations, Indigenous and Métis communities were steady throughout the year. In addition to providing Child Protection Mediation, Family Group Conferencing, Indigenous Approaches to ADR and the 4th Option, we began the delivery of the Ready, Set, Go program.

Ready, Set, Go is specific to youth who have been in the care of a Children's Aid Society for at least 12 consecutive months. This program focuses on increasing success for youth as they travel from 13 to 23 years of age. There are many opportunities for interaction with youth as they navigate health, relationships, school, employment, life skills, career development and general wellbeing. Many kids in care feel they are doing this alone but ADR can help to grow their circle of support by bringing together people that care about them and people they trust to help them. It is a program that is still in development in terms of process, but it is loaded with opportunities for better outcomes for young people.

ADR has produced new program materials providing information for both referral sources and the families/youth that use these services. They can be found on our website at www.adr-link.ca on the Resources page.

During the 2023-2024 year, ADR-Link connected families to ADR services as follows

| |  |  |  |  |  | |
|---------------|---|---|---|--|---|-------|
| | Child Protection Mediation | Family Group Conferencing | Indigenous Approaches | Ready, Set, Go | 4th Option/ Other | Total |
| New Referrals | 100 | 38 | 24 | 11 | 13 | 186 |

Beacon House Child & Youth Advocacy Centre

Building on the transformative year experienced in CVWP, Frances Nuvoloni has embraced her new role as a full-time advocate while maintaining her position as team lead. In this expanded role, Fran serves as the primary contact for families entering CYAC, providing essential support throughout the child abuse investigation process and connecting them with community resources. Her work ensures that families receive both immediate and sustained assistance as they navigate the reporting process and transition to long-term support.

We are thrilled to announce that, with funding from The Ministry of the Attorney General (MAG), we are moving forward with the creation of Rise & Thrive: Empowerment Essentials for Young Women. Rise & Thrive is a transformative 7-week psycho-educational program designed specifically for young women aged 12-18. Each week, participants will delve into crucial topics such as consent, building healthy relationships, mindful social media use, and awareness of human trafficking. This program is crafted to empower and equip the next generation of women with the knowledge and skills necessary for their personal and professional growth. It was inspired by feedback from many young women we work with, who often expressed uncertainty about recognizing signs of human trafficking. Rise & Thrive aims to fill this gap in awareness and provide practical tools for navigating these challenges. We are excited to share more details when we officially launch this program. A heartfelt

In another notable instance of community outreach, our advocate and Executive Director, Tuhin Jajal, were honored to speak at Ryan Hodge's (The Realty Firm) Mastermind Workshop this past June. Their presentation focused on raising awareness among Londoners about young victims and survivors of crime. They highlighted that child abuse is not confined to other countries or cities but occurs right here in our community, and emphasized the importance of knowing how to act if one suspects a child is being abused.



**Tuhin Jajal speaking at the Realty Firm
Mastermind Workshop June 2024**

Child Victim Witness Program



The Child Victim Witness Program (CVWP) is dedicated to supporting young survivors of crime and witnesses as they navigate their court experiences. Our mission is to minimize the trauma associated with their involvement in the criminal justice process through comprehensive court preparation, trauma education, special testimonial aids, and in-court testimony support.

This year has marked significant growth and evolution for CVWP. We've rebranded from the Child Witness Project to the Child Victim Witness Program, a name that more accurately reflects our work and aligns with terminology used across the province. This change has already proven to be a valuable enhancement.

Our team has also welcomed new members. Ellen Lonsdale joins us from Beacon House Child and Advocacy Centre (CYAC), bringing extensive experience with early years and community resources. Maya Fortin, previously a Social Service Worker Student, has also joined our team, infusing the program with fresh energy and enthusiasm.

We are also excited to introduce Virgil NSD, who, alongside Secondary Handler Rose Van Wieren, forms a dynamic duo. Virgil recently supported his first trial in August, and we look forward to his continued growth and contributions to CVWP and CYAC.

In our efforts to expand community awareness, CVWP have actively engaged in outreach. This past spring, Lost Cycle chose CVWP as their charity of the month, raising over \$1,000 for improvements to the CCTV space at the London Courthouse. We are grateful for their generosity and for providing a fun and beneficial workout experience.

Additionally, our team has embraced the task of managing our social media channels to boost community awareness of LFCC and our mission. We are enthusiastic about our ongoing initiatives to build a more informed and supportive community for the unique and resilient individuals we serve. To stay updated on the latest news about Virgil NSD and LFCC, please follow us on Instagram @LondonFamilyCourtClinic or scan the QR code.

Stay tuned as we continue to develop and share new initiatives that align with our mission and commitment to our community.



📷 Follow us on Instagram





Facility Dog

In May 2024, LFCC welcomed our new facility dog, NSD Virgil. With his calm demeanor, willingness to cuddle for hours and ability to get comfortable in small places like a witness box, NSD Virgil was chosen to be placed as a facility dog at LFCC. NSD Virgil was generously donated to us by National Service Dogs (NSD), a non-profit organization that provides specialized dog breeding and training to provide the community with the support of a working dog. Thanks to NSD, our four-legged colleague can provide unconditional support and comfort to children and youth who most need it.

NSD Virgil supports children and youth in court preparation, pre-trial interviews, court accompaniment, court waiting, testifying, and therapy sessions. The facility dog program is an innovative way of helping children and youth mitigate the trauma of testifying in court. Some youth have reported that they could not have gone through the court process without the help of the dog. In these cases, the justice process would not have occurred at all, without the involvement of a dog.

The sustainability of LFCC's Facility Dog Program is wholly dependent on private donations from our community. Expenses such as food and veterinary care add up quickly for this special working dog. As such, we are seeking funding from caring individuals, organizations and foundations to both sustain and expand the reach of this worthy project.



If you would like to donate to the facility dog program, please visit our website (www.lfcc.on.ca) and click Donate.

Any additional funds received through private donations cover the cost of things such as grooming, equipment, treats, and other unforeseen costs.

Clinical Supports Program

Our Clinical Supports Program (CSP) team of registered psychotherapists has continued to provide individualized, intensive mental health services to youth (and their families) involved in the justice system. We have supported youth in custody settings, as well as youth on probation and mental health diversion. Additionally, some youth currently before Youth Therapeutic Court, who are experiencing significant distress, can access our clinicians for rapid response with brief in-person counselling supports. Stabilizing youth in crisis is a speciality of our team.

This past year the CSP team has welcomed a new clinician, Nikita Ariganello, to LFCC. We also welcomed a new facility dog, NSD Virgil, who lends a helpful paw to clients during therapy sessions. Initially, therapy can be a difficult and intimidating concept, particularly for young people who may be required to attend. Our clinicians offer a relationship-based and trauma-informed approach to therapy to support our clients in enhancing their wellbeing and creating meaningful change in their lives.

We value a collaborative approach to supporting youth and their families as we work closely with our community partners, such as youth probation, St. Leonard's Community Services, and Craigwood Children, Youth and Family Services. We are looking forward to another year of working together to support youth with complex mental health needs to help them thrive in their communities.





Youth Justice Assessments

This year marks a significant milestone for LFCC as we proudly celebrate 50 years of service to the London court and the surrounding courthouses in our region. For half a century, the LFCC Youth Justice Program has been a cornerstone in the youth justice sector, providing highly specialized s.34 assessment services that seek to identify underlying factors contributing to the behavior of youth charged under the Youth Criminal Justice Act. Our s.34 assessments aim to give the court a thorough understanding of the youth's historical and current mental health status, as well as their needs. This milestone is a testament to the dedication, expertise, and commitment of our highly skilled clinical staff, who have continuously evolved to meet the ever-growing needs of our community.

Over the past year, our Youth Justice Team welcomed a new Case Manager, Lisa Butcher, and recently acquired the skills of our new Program Support team member, Sierra Caissey. Sierra's background in communication, office and program administration and management are welcomed assets in creating a well-rounded and efficient youth justice team at LFCC.

Over the past five decades, we have continued to see a steady increase in the number of court-ordered referrals for forensic assessments, as well as a marked increase in the complexity of cases presented. Today's youth involved in the justice system face a multitude of challenges, including mental health issues, substance use, difficulties with family and peer relationships, and trauma. We continue to see the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic as youth adjust and recover from interruptions in education and the significant impact of the global pandemic. Our assessors approach each of these cases with a nuanced understanding of the challenges, and despite the growing complexity of cases, our team continues to deliver high-quality assessments that consider each individual's circumstances and needs.



As we reflect on 50 years of service, we are incredibly proud of the impact LFCC has had on the lives of countless youth and their families, our community, and the partnerships we have built with our stakeholders and justice partners. We remain deeply committed to maintaining the high level of service that our community and justice partners have come to expect.

Youth Therapeutic Court

The Youth Therapeutic Court Program (YTC) has continued to play a pivotal role in providing support services to youth in London/Middlesex County who have been charged with an offence under the Youth Criminal Justice Act and who have a diagnosed or suspected mental illness, traumatic brain injury or developmental disability. The Youth Therapeutic Court team works with youth, families and caregivers to provide support, assessment services, advocacy and in some cases, when appropriate, an opportunity to participate in the Mental Health Diversion Program.

Since its inception, YTC team has remained steadfast in its commitment to providing comprehensive, individualized care for youth, with a focus on addressing the underlying issues that contribute to their involvement with the law. This past year has been one of significant growth and success, further solidifying the YTC's role as a cornerstone of our youth justice initiatives.

Over this past year, our team welcomed new staff member Lisa Butcher. Lisa, provides case management services for both YTC as well as our Youth Justice Services program, and is the initial point of contact for many of our clients and families referred to these programs. Lisa's experience in case management, combined with her compassionate approach, and enthusiasm for the work has been a welcomed addition to the team, and we look forward to the continued growth and success of our programs with her contributions.



One of the most notable trends over the past year has been the significant increase in the number of referrals to the Youth Therapeutic Court. This uptick is a testament to the growing recognition of the YTC's effectiveness in addressing complex cases that require a therapeutic approach. The continued collaboration with justice partners and community agencies, has been instrumental in facilitating these referrals. Alongside the increase in referrals, we have observed a notable rise in the complexity of the cases being referred to the Youth Therapeutic Court.

Many of the youth coming to the YTC are dealing with a combination of mental health issues, substance use disorders, trauma, and challenging family dynamics. These cases require an approach that may include further assessment, therapeutic intervention, and close collaboration with external service providers. Our team has risen to this challenge, leveraging our expertise to meet the needs of this busy program. These developments underscore the critical role of the YTC in the youth justice system and reaffirm our commitment to supporting vulnerable youth on their journey toward positive change.



Online Safety for All:

An Early Intervention Program for Youth

Between the fall of 2022 and the spring of 2024, London Family Court Clinic (LFCC) completed a Safer and Vital Communities (SVC) grant in which our team addressed the growing concern of internet-based sexual exploitation by youth.

This project was carried out in collaboration with local community stakeholders who took part in monthly advisory group meetings. London Police Services (LPS) and more specifically, members of The Internet Child Exploitation (ICE) Unit, were closely involved as key partners throughout the grant.

Over much of the granting period, our project team worked on researching and developing a 6 week psycho-educational program for youth. The developed material was designed to direct young men identified as 'lower risk', (aged 12 to 18 years old), away from future high-risk internet-based sexual exploitation behaviour. Examples of inappropriate online behaviour perpetrated by participants included the sharing of inappropriate intimate images or unwanted sexting. Youth involved in these 'lower risk' acts are often times not formally charged, but may be warned and educated by police about their inappropriate behaviour. The developed group program was offered during the grant period as a means of offering more specific education to youth about staying safer and away from further difficulties when online. Key topics addressed included: information about the law; the challenge of understanding consent when online; and how to manage online pornography sites which are readily accessible to youth. The group materials were piloted with youth who offered us feedback – as did some of their parents. Overall, youth and their parents were grateful for the opportunity to learn more about how to be safer when engaging in online activities.

A final phase of this project involved our offering a virtual training to local professionals on the topic of online sexual behaviour amongst youth. This half-day training was coordinated and supported through Radius Child and Youth Services and was attended by over 50 professionals. Feedback confirmed that the four specialized speakers were well received and that participants appreciated the opportunity to learn more about the online sexual behaviours of youth and how to address inappropriate behaviours and internet safety with youth. LFCC hopes to have opportunity to revisit this timely topic and to secure funding to offer to youth this psycho-educational group program on an on- going basis.

Staffing Updates

This past year has been one of many changes with several staff members transferring from LFCC to Navigating Onward (NavOn) through strategic workforce planning or retirement.

Dr. Dan Ashbourne's retirement in the summer of 2022 and became a consultant with NavOn to continue his work as a trainer; and as a psychologist working with families. Dr. Ashbourne was LFCC's third Executive Director prior to his retirement; and are fortunate to have him connected through NavOn.

Dr. Linda Baker, LFCC's second Executive Director, also retired this year from her long-term secondment at Western's CREVAWC. Dr. Baker continued to be an ally for LFCC since her departure in 2012.

LFCC continues to welcome the opportunities to participate in student and professional development and mentorship. Continuing to assist in shaping and educating future clinical leaders remains a paramount mission and passion for LFCC.

Below is a list of our current staff, those that have worked with us throughout the year for short-term contracts and those that have moved on to apply their skills and passion for service in other organizations. Each contributes to the rich history of LFCC and to a future built on excellence, compassion, and skill.

London Family Court Clinic Team

Ellen Arnold-Lonsdale
Lisa Butcher
Tuhin Jajal
Joelene Bamford
Chastine Lamoureux
Nikita Ariganello
Maya Fortin

Frances Nuvoloni
Dr. Joyce Radford
Ellissa Riel
Tammy Riley
Rosemary Van Wieren
Sierra Caissey
Evelyn Toth-Bertea

NavOn Team

Dr. Kim Harris
Melissa Moor
Dr. Ashley Bildfell
Jacqueline MacMillan
Dr. Dilys Haner

Student Team

Kesslin Wilker
Donia Tong
Parnia Rahimian Parvar
Rachel Kandhiah

We said goodbye to

Valeria MacGregor
Ryan MacKay
Rachel Sardo
Aaron Carder
Hailey Janssens

Kaitlyn Wierenga
Faven Ghetnet
Melissa Zellas
Genevieve Schadenberg



Board of Directors

It is difficult to express fully our appreciation for the expertise and commitment our board of directors brings to the table every month. Our President, Mary Ann Tucker, has been engaged with LFCC's board since 2012 and has led us through some difficult days of transition and growth over the years. The board works with compassion for our clients as their foundation for discussions, to ensure they provide a variety of perspectives to ensure services are delivered responsibly.



On behalf of the entire staff team, our clients, and the community at large, we thank you for sharing your time and expertise with our organization.

Mary Ann Tucker

President

Ketan Ramji

Vice President

Tuhin Jajal

Executive Director, LFCC

Samantha Skinner

Member

George Skikos

Member

Camille Riggs

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Consultant Spotlight

Tobi Siew

*MPA, CPMED, ACC FM, Family Group
Conference Practitioner*

Tobi Siew is a family-focused Mediator, Coach and Facilitator. She is an Accredited Member of the Ontario Association of Family Mediators (Acc.FM), a Member in good standing with the ADR Institute of Ontario and a Coach practitioner.

She also maintains designations as a Family Group Conference Coordinator and a Child Protection Mediator, recognized with both the Provincial Roster and the ADR Link working with families involved with the Children's Aid Society.

Tobi Siew opened her mediation and consulting practice in London, Ontario, after working as an Individual Counsellor with women and children. She has extensive experience working with families in a broad range of high conflict situations, aiming to support families in their effort to reach a sustainable resolution.



Tobi has been working with ADR-Link since it began at London Family Court Clinic in 2006. She is an invaluable member of our roster who brings years of knowledge which she shares readily with other practitioners and the program manager. It is a pleasure working with Tobi and we look forward to many more years of growing ADR services with her input.