



NEWS RELEASE

Celebrating a decade of collaborative care, strong commitment to clients: *Providence Care celebrates 10 years of mental health programs*

March 7, 2011 (KINGSTON) - Providence Care is marking the 10-year anniversary of providing long-term, specialty mental health care to residents of southeastern Ontario. The change in leadership of what was formerly a provincially-run psychiatric hospital to Providence Care occurred officially at midnight on March 5th, 2001.

“Providence Care is dedicated to enhancing the quality of life of all those who access our services,” says Dale Kenney, President & CEO. “When MHS joined Providence Care, the organization was strengthened by the physicians and staff who are committed to meeting the needs of individuals living with mental health issues.”

Kenney notes that Providence Care is the region’s provider of long-term psychiatric care for the seriously mentally ill, as well as a leader in ongoing community-based initiatives to provide mental health services to people in their own home environments.

Historically, psychiatric care has been delivered at the King Street West site since the mid-1800s. This year, Providence Care is celebrating its heritage by marking over 150 years of “Enhancing Quality of Life,” which includes a look back on how mental health care has improved and developed through those years.

Prior to the opening of the Rockwood Asylum in the 1860s, men with mental health illnesses were housed in the basement of the Kingston Penitentiary and women in stables on the Cartright property. When Rockwood was completed, the clients were transferred to the asylum to receive care and treatment. The Westwood Building of the Ontario Hospital opened in 1959 and was renamed the Kingston Psychiatric Hospital in 1965.

Currently, Providence Care’s mental health programs includes the Mental Health Services (MHS) building on King Street West, as well as numerous outreach sites in Kingston, Belleville, Brockville, Napanee, Sharbot Lake and Smiths Falls.

“Through Providence Care, we have continued a legacy of strengthening our relationships with our local, community partners that began many years ago,” says Allen Prowse, Vice-President Partnerships and Community Programs. “Our approach focuses on a collaborative model of care that focuses on the individual’s unique needs and voice in their own treatment.”

“Our clinical staff and local researchers are leaders in psychiatric care,” says Dr. Roumen Milev, Head of Psychiatry at Providence Care, Hotel Dieu Hospital, Kingston General Hospital and Queen’s University. “In the past ten years, we have developed new approaches and methods that better support people living with mental illness.”

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Examples of some of the many successes in mental health at Providence Care since 2001:

- Enhancing inpatient mental health services through the creation of an Empowerment & Clinical Education Centre, a Dual Diagnosis Centre and a wide range of in-hospital programs and opportunities for clients;
- Establishing Ontario's first and only Community High Intensity Treatment Team, which has enabled mental health clients who had lived in a psychiatric hospital for extended periods of time, to live in the community successfully.
- Implementing increased support for seniors and elderly living with complex physical, cognitive and mental health needs, by working together with long-term care homes and community partners.
- Recruiting new nurses to psychiatric care through the Mental Health Nursing Residency Program, part of Health Force Ontario's Nursing Graduate Guarantee.
- Offering educational opportunities to clients staying on the inpatient units at Mental Health Services, as well as clients who live in the community, through the Westwood School (located at MHS), which also partners with the Limestone District School Board, Frontenac Community Mental Health and Hotel Dieu Hospital.
- Ensuring smoother transfers for mental health clients between acute, community and non-acute health services, through enhanced communication between Providence Care and other agencies.
- Partnering with regional mental health and community support service organizations to provide a single access point for mental health care to residents of southeastern Ontario.
- Researching new ways of understanding and treating mental illness, including the development of a tool to help clinicians understand the impact of stigma on someone living with mental illness.

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Providence Care is southeastern Ontario's leading provider of specialized mental health care, physical medicine and rehabilitation, specialized geriatric services, complex continuing care, palliative care and long-term care. Affiliated with [Queen's University](#) in Kingston, and as a member of the [Council of Academic Hospitals of Ontario](#), Providence Care is a major centre for health education and research. Providence Care is sponsored by the [Catholic Health Corporation of Ontario](#). In 2011, Providence Care is celebrating its 150th anniversary – over 150 years of “enhancing the quality of life” of those we serve.

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