



NEWS RELEASE

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New partnership to help identify and increase community housing and supports for mental health clients in the Kingston-area

KINGSTON - Frontenac Community Mental Health and Addiction Services (FCMHAS) and Providence Care have signed a new agreement to work together to identify and increase community housing and supports for mental health clients.

Since 2005, Providence Care has been able to support the transition of over 125 long-stay inpatients from the hospital to community living. This reflects patients who were inpatients at Providence Care Mental Health Services (MHS) for longer than one year. These individuals no longer require the high level of medical and nursing care that is provided to inpatients in a hospital, and are able to live in a more appropriate range of settings, including independent residences, group homes, and supportive/supported living arrangements. In many cases, Providence Care or FCMHAS continues to provide outreach mental health services to clients in the community.

“Providence Care, along with our partners at Frontenac Community Mental Health and Addictions Services, have been successful in helping inpatients be at home in the community after they no longer need the level of care you see in a hospital setting,” says Dr. Simon O’Brien, Clinical Director of ATR at Providence Care. “We are now planning for our move to the new Providence Care Hospital in the next few years. We know there will be fewer inpatient mental health beds in the new hospital, however we also know that we have inpatients now who could be living in the community if the right supports were available.”

Dr. O’Brien says there are a number of inpatients currently at MHS who are waiting to move to the community, when the right services and supports are available. Building on the strengths of both organizations, Providence Care and FCMHAS will be working together to develop these resources.

In July-September 2011, just two per cent of the Providence Care mental health clients who moved back to the community returned to MHS as inpatients within 30 days. Provincially, the 30-day readmission rate for similar facilities is seven per cent.

“We are committed to making sure our clients have the housing and support they need when they leave the hospital,” says Dr. O’Brien. “When someone is discharged from the inpatient service, we are able to wrap appropriate supports around the individual through collaborations among our community teams, FCMHAS and other local resources. In the community, they are able to feel more connected to friends and family.”

The South East Local Health Integration Network is working collaboratively with Providence Care and FCMHAS. “The South East LHIN is pleased to have been a part of this initiative that will help clients return to their homes and the community, and strengthen our local resources which support

individuals living with mental health challenges,” says Paul Huras, SE LHIN CEO.

Frontenac Community Mental Health and Addiction Services (FCMHAS) is a major provider of community-based mental health and addiction programming. At any point in time, FCMHAS serves approximately 1,200 clients, providing mobile crisis, transitional case management, intensive case management, vocational, assertive community treatment, court support and addiction services.

As part of the formal partnership, Alan Mathany, Director of Systems Development for FCMHAS, is now working fulltime on the project, with offices at both FCMHAS and Providence Care’s Mental Health Services (MHS). Alan will be working with staff and managers of Providence Care’s Adult Treatment and Rehabilitation, Geriatric Psychiatry and Forensic Psychiatry programs. Part of his work will be to consult with frontline staff to better understand how both organizations can strengthen their capacities in the community.

Providence Care and FCMHAS are committed to ensuring the right health system supports and services are available to all clients when they are needed, including in-hospital and in-community services.

***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.*

*Celebrating 40 years of service in 2012, **Frontenac Community Mental Health and Addiction Services** is a non-profit private corporation which offers a continuum of services in Frontenac County for people with a serious mental health illness and/or addictions concerns. It was established in 1972 and has grown steadily over the years from primarily an affordable housing program to a full service agency. The clients, staff and members of the Board of Directors work as a community to offer quality services with an emphasis on psychosocial rehabilitation principles and practises. FCMHAS is associated with the Department of Psychiatry at Queen’s University.*

To arrange interviews, please contact:

Jenn Goodwin
Director, Communications
Providence Care
613-548-5567 ext 5668
goodwinj@providencecare.ca

Vicky Huehn
Executive Director
Frontenac Community Mental Health and Addiction Services
613-544-1366, ext 2401