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Mental Health Programs and Services in Erie St. Clair

Approximately one in five Ontarians will experience a mental health and/or addiction problem during their life. Unlike an obvious physical impairment, mental health strikes at a level that is less tangible, but equally as impactful.

On December 20, 2010, the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC), through the Minister's Advisory Group on Mental Health and Addictions, released their report on mental health titled: *Respect, Recovery, Resilience: Recommendations for Ontario's Mental Health and Addictions Strategy*. The report recommends making better use of existing resources by integrating services across sectors, in particular, with education, justice, housing, and social services. Other recommendations include:

- Enhance community-based mental health and addictions supports and services
- Develop early identification and intervention programs for children and youth
- Promote wellness and mental health supports across a person's lifespan

The Erie St. Clair LHIN (ESC LHIN) is developing a mental health strategic plan that parallels the provincial report framework. The strategic plan, anticipated to be released in the spring of 2012, will provide a cohesive model to better link the residents of Erie St. Clair with improved mental health services.

Mental health, as outlined in both our second Integrated Health Service Plan and Annual Business Plan, is a priority for our LHIN. As such, we are investing resources to enhance and integrate mental health services both within the hospital and across the community sector. This includes recent activities such as:

- **Behavioural Supports in Ontario (BSO):** Enhance services for elderly Ontarians with complex and "responsive" behaviours wherever they live – at home, in long-term care, or elsewhere. A partnership amongst long-term care, hospitals, CCAC, and other area health service providers
- **Enhanced Early Intervention Program:** Providing first episode psychosis treatment services for youth age 14 – 35 through our local CMHAs
- **Telemedicine Care:** Telemedicine nurses are connecting mental health services between Chatham and Windsor to allow for easier patient access and flow
- **Student Support Leadership Initiative (SSLI):** A collaborative project between the Ontario Ministry of Education, Ministry of Child and Youth Services and the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care designed to help child and youth mental health organizations work together

Over the next few editions of the LHINfo Minute, we'll be providing additional details about each of these activities. For more information about mental health activities in Erie St. Clair, please visit: www.eriestclairhin.on.ca.



Erie St. Clair **LHIN** HEALTH CARE UPDATE

www.eriestclairhin.on.ca

About the ESC LHIN

The Erie St. Clair LHIN is a Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care agency that plans and pays for health care services totalling a billion dollars a year in our region alone – everything from hospitals to Meals on Wheels.

The Erie St. Clair LHIN strives to make the health care system better by understanding and responding to local needs and by getting services to work together more efficiently. That's how we'll all get better health care while saving money and making the system sustainable for our children and grandchildren.