

Child and Youth Mental Health and Substance Use Collaborative

FACT SHEET

About the Collaborative:

- The Collaborative started in the Interior in June, 2013 and has recently spread to seven areas within the Island region.
- The purpose of the collaborative is to increase the number of children, youth, and their families receiving timely access to integrated mental health and substance use services and supports.
- More than 300 individuals — including family doctors, psychiatrists, pediatricians, social workers, school counsellors, substance use counsellors, Aboriginal services, advocates, parents, youth, RCMP officers, health administrators, and others are involved in the Collaborative.
- The Collaborative is currently working:

At the local level: Local Action Teams have been created in each of the following areas:

Interior: Cariboo, Central Okanagan, East Kootenay, Kootenay Boundary, Shuswap/, Thompson, Vernon, and South Okanagan Similkameen

Island: Greater Victoria, Comox, Cowichan, Mt. Waddington, Port Alberni, Salt Spring Island and Nanaimo

Action Teams contain a diverse cross-section of mental health service providers and stakeholders whose activities are concentrated at the local level i.e., identifying gaps in services and creating an inventory of resources of their area.

At the system level: System barriers identified by local Action Teams, sponsors, funders, the Steering Committee and Clinical Faculty are being tackled by nine working groups. The Collaborative's working groups work closely with the 'Healthy Minds Healthy People' Assistant Deputy Ministers Committee. The working groups are:

- Emergency Department Protocol
- Information Sharing
- Model of Care
- Physician Compensation
- Transitions in Care - Youth to Adult; Community to Hospital to Community
- Specialist Support
- Physician Recruitment and Retention
- Rural and Remote/Telehealth
- Evaluation

- The Steering Committee and Clinical Faculty, and their system working groups, include representatives from the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD), the Ministry of Education, PHSA, health authorities, the Shared Care Committee, First Nations Health Council, Local Action Team co-chairs, as well as physicians and organizations with broad provincial scope. IMPACT BC provides the coaching and project management of the Collaborative.
- Youth and parents – through FORCE – provide leadership and participate in all aspects of the Collaborative from Steering Committee, to Working Groups to Local Action Teams. The leadership and participation of youth and parents has been identified as the biggest gem of the Collaborative.

About the collaborative process:

- The CYMHSU Collaborative structure is based upon the [Collaborative Model for Achieving Breakthrough Improvement](#) pioneered by the US Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI). This model is used worldwide as a method of rapid continuous quality improvement in healthcare. The model brings local action teams together, who commit to improve areas of policy or practice that they identify and define during the process of collaboration. The teams then make small tests of change in these areas in quick succession and then share results with the larger groups at regular "Learning Sessions".
- The idea for the Collaborative was generated by the Inter-divisional Strategic Council, which represents seven divisions of family practice (representing more than 800 family physicians), Interior Health, the Ministry of Health, and the joint Doctors of BC/Ministry of Health General Practice Services Committee.

About the funders and sponsors

- Funding of \$1.6m for the Collaborative comes from the Shared Care Committee (SCC), with a contribution from the Specialist Services Committee; both are joint collaborative committees of Doctors of BC and the Ministry of Health. The CYMHSU Collaborative has received a funding commitment for provincial spread and sustainability through March 2016.
- Shared Care and Specialist Services Committees are funded via the Physician Master Agreement and are designed to support improvements to patient care in BC.
- The sponsors of the Collaborative are: Doctors of BC and the Ministries of Health, Child and Family Development and Education, Interior Health and more recently Island Health.

Spread and Sustainability Congress

The Spread and Sustainability Congress will be held in Kelowna for over 300 participants on September 29/30th. The Congress provides the opportunity to celebrate the achievements of the Collaborative to date, and to showcase the Collaborative for newly engaged regions and partners. The Congress also serves as a forum to stimulate discussion and planning with all participants for the next action period from October 2014 – February 2015.

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