

## Better Access to Mental Health & Addictions Services in HNHB LHIN

### NEWS

November 20 2012

Citizens with mental health and addictions issues in the Hamilton Niagara Haldimand Brant (HNHB) Local Health Integration Network (LHIN) now have better access to programs and services close to home.

The HNHB LHIN is investing close to \$3 million in new and expanded programs and services to support individuals with mental health and addictions issues, including pregnant and parenting women and individuals with opiate addictions. This supports the LHIN's *ACTION: A Call To IntegratiOn Now* work, to ensure citizens get the best care, in the right place, at the right time.

Individuals have access to expanded services including crisis support, withdrawal management, intensive case management, supportive housing and support through their journey of recovery. Pregnant and parenting women with opiate addictions have enhanced access to existing programs with flexible supports to meet their complex needs, including life skills and parenting skills.

Investments in mental health and addictions are important to people like Zachary. Now a full-time Grade 12 student, Zachary previously used drugs as a coping mechanism for depression and feelings of abandonment. With the help and support of services at St. Leonard's Community Services in Brantford, including addictions counselling and housing, Zachary has been clean and sober since June 2011.

This is part of the LHIN's \$15.1 million investment in home and community services, as announced on October 25, 2012 and part of the Ontario government's \$128 million increase in home care and community services across the province in support of its *Action Plan for Health Care*.

### QUOTES

"We know that residents in the HNHB LHIN, including individuals with mental health and addiction issues, want to be able to receive care in their community and in their homes. With this investment we'll be able to provide the type of care our citizens want and need and also help ease pressure on hospital emergency departments."

—Michael P. Shea, Board Chair, HNHB LHIN

"This funding will make a significant difference in the lives of people who have a mental health or addiction issue living in Haldimand and Norfolk counties. It addresses historical barriers to accessing service by expanding services available in the community and providing care close to home. Residents will be supported as they return home from a hospital admission or emergency department visit."

—Mike Benin, Executive Director, Canadian Mental Health Association Haldimand-Norfolk

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“St. Leonard’s Community Services has been a huge support system for me, and there is always someone there to ask if I need help with anything.”

—Zachary, Client of St. Leonard’s Community Services

## QUICK FACTS

- This \$2,899,389 investment in mental health and addictions aims to reduce repeat, unplanned visits to the emergency department, length of stay in hospital, and readmissions to hospital. Here is a summary of the investment:
  - **Mental Health and Addictions**
    - \$261,000 to St. Leonard’s Community Services for a Transitional Housing Program serving Brant
    - \$799,400 to Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA) Haldimand-Norfolk for Intensive Case Management and Crisis Capacity serving Haldimand-Norfolk and Brant.
    - \$115,647 to St. Joseph’s Healthcare Hamilton (SJHH) for Community Treatment Order Coordinators serving Hamilton.
  - **Narcotic Addictions**
    - \$1,000,000 for two projects: 1) Niagara Health System (NHS), CMHA Niagara and Quest Community Health Centre for an Urgent Access Service Team serving Niagara, and 2) Brant Community Healthcare System and St. Leonard’s Community Services for a Concurrent Disorders Outreach Team serving Brant.
  - **Pregnant and Parenting Women with Addictions**
    - \$319,904 to NHS and Community Addictions Services Niagara for A Better Choice Program serving Niagara.
    - \$403,438 to SJHH, Salvation Army - New Choices, and Alienated Youth of Canada (Alternatives for Youth) for the New Choices program serving Hamilton.
- Hamilton and Niagara are identified as having the greatest need in the LHIN for services for pregnant and parenting women with addictions. The target population includes pregnant and parenting women who are struggling with substance abuse, living in poverty, experiencing mental health issues, trauma, in an abusive relationship, have difficulty caring for their children, and whose children are at risk of healthy development and substance abuse in the future.
- Approximately 50,000 people are addicted to narcotics in Ontario.
- Since 2003, Ontario has increased funding for addiction programs by 58 per cent.

## LEARN MORE

Read about this and other investments in home care and community services in HNHB LHIN by visiting [News From the HNHB LHIN](#) page on the HNHB LHIN website.

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Learn about HNHB LHIN's [Action: A Call To IntegratiOn Now](#).

Read Ontario's [Action Plan for Health Care](#).

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For more information:

Trish Nelson, Director, Communications and Corporate Services

905-945-4930 ext. 4255

[trish.nelson@lhins.on.ca](mailto:trish.nelson@lhins.on.ca)