Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care
Research Priorities and Questions

As part of the Systems of Prevention and Care mandate with the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care and the System Integration and Innovation Research Network, we share ideas and innovations, integrate research being planned and conducted, and respond to ministry research priorities and questions that cover a diverse range of topics.

Our response to these ministry questions are compiled into research reports and made available on our website: fhs.mcmaster.ca/spc/knowledge_transfer

“'A leader is one who knows the way, goes the way, and shows the way.'
~ John C. Maxwell

Models of Home Care

Our first report is a review of the literature on models of home care in Canada. It discusses case management in home care enlisting the help of a range of professional services as well as the hospital-in-the-home versus inpatient hospitalizations. Studies were reviewed documenting the characteristics of patients with complex needs, use of resources, caregiver burden, dose of the intervention, and detailed costs.

Findings are indicated in the report, which is available for download from our website: fhs.mcmaster.ca/spc/knowledge_transfer

SAVE THE DATE

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June 19, 2012
Keynote Address

Canadian Nurses Association Biennial Convention
Transforming Health Care for the Next Generation
Vancouver BC
The Youth Link Network (formerly named Community Agencies Providing Youth Opportunities Advisory Committee) is a collaboration of Hamilton area agencies and organizations that provide youth opportunities and advise the Systems of Prevention and Care Research Team on current Hamilton programs, existing gaps in services, and the need for synergism among agencies and programs of youth opportunity within Hamilton, Ontario.

The United Way of Hamilton and Burlington will develop the City’s strategic plan for youth while members of the Youth Link Network will develop youth programming.

The Youth Link Network is beginning its implementation activities with the on-site development of CORE Art Studios.

"Everyone needs to be valued. Everyone has the potential to give something back.”
~ Princess Diana

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About Our Youth!

Staff with the Health and Social Service Utilization (HSSU) Research Unit was joined in the fall of last year by graduate student Erin Fuller, RN, BScN, who was doing a practicum placement from the University of Alberta’s School of Public Health. This placement provided the HSSU the ability to conduct a study involving youth between 16 and 21 years of age attending an outreach program in Southern Ontario.

Erin conducted one-on-one interviews with consenting individuals with the intent to learn whether youth accessing different outreach services had similar characteristics. Areas explored included education and employment history, strengths, learning style, attitudes and beliefs, and developmental assets. Interviews revealed important information and, although not a specific goal of this study, findings may assist stakeholders in enhancing existing programs by increasing their understanding of the strengths and needs of youth accessing services.

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This practicum experience assisted Erin in completing a Master of Public Health (MPH) degree with a specialization in health promotion from the University of Alberta. The MPH program is designed to equip students to identify, analyze, and take action on the personal, cultural, and socio-environmental determinants of health and health behaviour. Erin Fuller is a Public Health Nurse with the City of Hamilton Public Health Services, Youth Net Program.

“An idea that is developed and put into action is more important than an idea that exists only as an idea.”

~ Buddha

Youth Link Network... continued from page 2

Through this linked network, agencies are working together to provide opportunities to children and youth designed to increase the potential return on investment with measureable impacts on individuals, families, and communities. Collaborating on community programs, these local agencies hope to discover savings in Education, Social Assistance, and Corrections; increased Economic Development, Tax Revenue, and Post Secondary Education completion.
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Although it appears that youth accessing outreach services from different regions may not be significantly different from one another, it is apparent that youth, in general, face a number of different challenges interacting with the social determinants affecting their health.

Youth interviewed by Ms. Fuller reported a variety of personal health issues: 43% indicated they had a mental health or addiction issue and 29% stated they had a physical health issue.

In addition, it was noted approximately one third of participants appeared to have significant literacy issues. It may also be relevant to note that 33% cited social issues as being a barrier to education. Social issues include not getting along with others, not getting along with authority figures, and having difficulty participating in groups.

Social Determinants of Health...

These are the primary factors that shape the health of Canadians. They are not medical treatments or lifestyle choices but rather the living conditions people experience.

They are the conditions in which people are born, grow, live, work and age, including the health system.

~ Taken from The Canadian Facts website (www.thecanadianfacts.org) and from the World Health Organization website (www.who.int/social_determinants/en/

Education, employment, and social support networks are all critical determinants of health and youth-serving organizations have tremendous potential to positively influence all of these.

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“There is no more noble occupation in the world than to assist another human being - to help someone succeed.”
~ Alan Loy McGinnis