



For immediate release
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Summit to Develop Improved Mental Health System for Ontario's Children and Youth

TORONTO – Children's Mental Health Ontario is hosting a two-day Summit on October 4 - 5 at the Hilton Toronto Airport Hotel to launch the process of transforming the system of children's mental health services. This participatory event – aptly named *Coming Together for an Integrated System* – will engage players from many parts of the child and youth services sector in planning for a sustainable and integrated system of services from prevention through to successful outcomes.

The Summit's opening speaker (Monday, October 4th at 9:30 a.m.) will be Dr. Marie Bountrogianni, Minister of Children and Youth Services, who is expected to describe the Ontario government's plans for better children's mental health services. Earlier this year, the McGuinty government announced an extra \$25-million for the treatment and support of children and youth with mental-health problems. This was good news for children's mental health service providers who have been facing a funding crisis for years. "Building on funding increases that were announced in the recent Ontario budget, our Summit will be a significant milestone in re-vitalizing children's mental health services," says Gordon Floyd, Executive Director & CEO, Children's Mental Health Ontario.

The Summit will bring together people from the education system, Children's Aid Societies, the youth justice system and children's mental health treatment agencies – all of whom serve children with mental health issues. Their task will be to start defining a system of better-integrated services that is easier to access, with fewer gaps and better results.

"Our goals are ambitious," says Floyd "but the need to redefine children's mental health services within an integrated system is urgent and crucial. Now is our opportunity to begin developing, with our colleagues inside and outside government, a comprehensive policy framework for children and youth mental health services."

For more information about the Summit, please go to www.cmho.org or call Gordon Floyd at 416-921-2109.