



Children's Mental Health Ontario Santé Mentale pour Enfants Ontario

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2006-07 Report of the Board President and the Executive Director/CEO

It is with considerable pleasure that we are able to report on a very successful year for CMHO.

During 2006-07, CMHO's programs and activities were organized in 3 broad areas:

- 1. Promoting and supporting quality services**
 - (accreditation, BCFPI-Brief Child & Family Phone Interview, evidence-based practices, annual conference, member services, web-based resources for agencies & clinicians);
- 2. Public awareness and advocacy**
 - (Children's Mental Health Week, web-based resources for parents & youth, media relations, government relations, support for local advocacy, coalition-building & partnerships, youth engagement); and
- 3. Research and policy**
 - (data collection and analysis, collaboration with academic researchers, monitoring policy and systems in other jurisdictions, policy consultation & development).

Some achievement highlights from 2006-07 include:

- Release of Ontario's new policy framework for child and youth mental health, "A Shared Responsibility";
- Provision of a 5% (\$18 million) base funding increase for child and youth mental health services in the 2007 Ontario budget, plus \$4.5 million in new funding to begin addressing priorities in the policy framework and establishment of a \$2 million annual fund for communities that face an extraordinary crisis or circumstance;
- Children's Mental Health Week activities that included wide distribution of materials, awareness-raising events throughout the province, extensive media coverage, new partnerships with libraries and teacher organizations, and significant presence at Queen's Park;
- Completion of the development of new child and youth mental health program standards for CMHO's accreditation process;
- Launch of The New Mentality, a youth engagement pilot project, in partnership with the Provincial Centre of Excellence for Child and Youth Mental Health at CHEO;
- Expansion of telepsychiatry services to encompass 2 additional providing sites (CPRI/LHSC in London and CHEO in Ottawa) and at least 10 additional recipient sites;

- Re-design and expansion of CMHO's website, and usage growth to more than 1000 visitors per day;
- Establishment of 3 new partnerships: a consortium re: evidence-based practices with the Offord Centre, the Provincial Centre of Excellence, and eMentalHealth; the Ontario Alliance of Children and Youth Associations with Youth Justice Ontario, Ontario Community Justice Association, Ontario Association of Residences Treating Youth, OntChild/Young Parent Resources of Ontario; and a partnership to explore collaboration in accreditation with Family Service Ontario, Community Organizational Health Inc. (re: community health centres), FOCUS on Accreditation (re: developmental services), Ontario Association of Children's Aid Societies, Ontario Association of Credit Counselling Services, and Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Canada;
- 2 successful and well-attended events: the annual conference in November 2006 (with Hon. MaryAnne Chambers, Dr. Dean Fixen of South Florida Mental Health Institute, Jan Sanderson of Manitoba Child Secretariat, and New Faces of Violence & Prevention Youth Theatre Group) and the Board Chair/Executive Director meeting in February 2007 (with Ontario Auditor-General Jim McCarter, journalist André Picard, branding expert Robert Kozinets, and communications strategist Jim MacLean);
- Significant improvement in the accuracy and completeness of BCFPI data, and announcement of a web-based platform for BCFPI to enable province-wide use and more extensive data analysis;
- Development of plans to promote and support implementation of evidence-based practice in child and youth mental health services;
- Growth in all categories of CMHO membership: accredited, organizational, and individual.

As we move forward in 2007-08 and beyond, in pursuit of our mission *"to strengthen, support and advocate a sustainable system of mental health services for children, youth and their families"*, CMHO is continuing to pursue the following system-wide goals:

1. System coherence and sustainability (including policy, integrated services, and funding);
2. Reduced stigma and greater public awareness;
3. Transformation to evidence-based practice (including continuous quality improvement); and
4. Empowered clients (including youth and parent engagement).

Sincerely,

Heather Elbard
President, Board of Directors

Gordon Floyd
Executive Director & CEO