

support every child
reach every student

accompagner chaque enfant
appuyer chaque élève

**Ontario's Comprehensive Mental Health and Addictions
Strategy**

**Update on Ministry of Education's Initiatives and
Setting the Stage for Years 4+ of the Strategy**

December 12, 2013

Context

- In 2011 the Ontario government announced a comprehensive Mental Health and Addictions Strategy, *Open Minds, Healthy Minds* which will create a more responsive and integrated system, starting with children and youth. Our government's investments started in 2011-12 and will total \$257 million over a three year period
- The first three years of the Strategy are being led by the Ministry of Children and Youth Services, in collaboration with the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care.
 - One sector cannot, and should not do it alone.
- Mental health for children and youth is a shared responsibility in Ontario.
- Collaboration is needed at all levels - provincial, regional, and individual communities.
- In order to change the system, we need to work together and be willing to change in order to best serve children and youth.

Strategy in the First Three Year's Focus on Children and Youth

First Three Year's Priorities

1. Fast access to high quality services
2. Early identification and support
3. Help for vulnerable children and youth with unique needs
4. Support system change

While educators do not provide direct mental health services, they are in a unique position to identify and respond to mental health needs of students.

EDU Deliverables

- Implemented a Provincial Support Team, School Mental Health ASSIST (ASSIST), coaches with mental health and/or school board senior management experience hired (including coaches with French-language capacity and expertise working with Aboriginal communities), targeted resources developed and released beginning 2012-13
- Funded a Mental Health Leader in all 72 School Boards
- Developed a Kindergarten to Grade 12 Resource Guide for Educators, *Supporting Minds*, which was released in August 2013.
- Developing enhancements to the Ontario curriculum, including subject-specific sections regarding mental health and addictions; and video resources developed to support educators (on track for fall 2013)

Results

Fast Access to High Quality Services and Help for Children who are vulnerable and have unique needs

By working collaborative across the Ministries of Children and Youth Services, Health and Long-Term Care and education the government has been able to achieve the following results:

Children, youth and their families are benefitting from supports and services provided by over 770 new mental health workers across the province.

District School Boards (DSBs) specifically have benefitted from both system resources and from workers directly supporting students which include:

- 73 Mental Health Leaders (coaching by ASSIST) in all DSBs by Year 3 providing leadership and coordination in school mental health;
- 145 nurses working with district school boards and local schools to support the early identification and treatment of students with potential mental health and/or addiction issues;
- 175 additional new workers in schools, who will provide students support to address their mental health needs; and
- More than 80 new Aboriginal mental health and addictions workers in high needs communities.
- 18 Service Collaboratives have been established to support coordinated services for children, youth and adults, including a focus on children and youth in between hospital to community settings; health and justice systems, and from child and youth-focused to adult services. In some Service Collaboratives DSBs have been involved

Results

Early Identification and Support

- All DSBs are at various levels of implementation and building capacity to support students who have mental health issues
- With the leadership of ASSIST and the Mental Health Leaders DSBs are creating:
 - Organizational Conditions, such as infrastructure, protocols and role clarity for effective school mental health
 - Mental Health Awareness, Literacy, Expertise for different groups of school board staff, based on needs
 - Evidence-Based Mental Health Promotion and Prevention Programming in schools
- School boards, school authorities and provincial/demonstration schools received funding to support educator release time for mental health and addictions professional learning.

Results

Support System Change

- All 72 DSBs are funded for a Mental Health (MH) Leader to provide leadership and coordination in school mental health through the development and implementation of a Board Mental Health Strategy in collaboration with appropriate community partners.
- MH Leaders receive leadership support and implementation coaching by ASSIST (including French-language and Aboriginal expertise) and are developing a community of practice for consultation and knowledge exchange.
- ASSIST continues to develop evidence based resources and supports, for example:
 - ASSIST website established (part public, part for MH Leaders)
 - Resources released beginning 2012-13 targeted for a range of audiences on mental health awareness, literacy and expertise (for educators, for administrators).
 - ASSIST works closely with key provincial stakeholder groups, the Centre of Excellence, and Joint Consortium for School Mental Health to develop resources
 - Resources to support Suicide Prevention, Intervention and Postvention in Schools disseminated to school board level leadership teams.

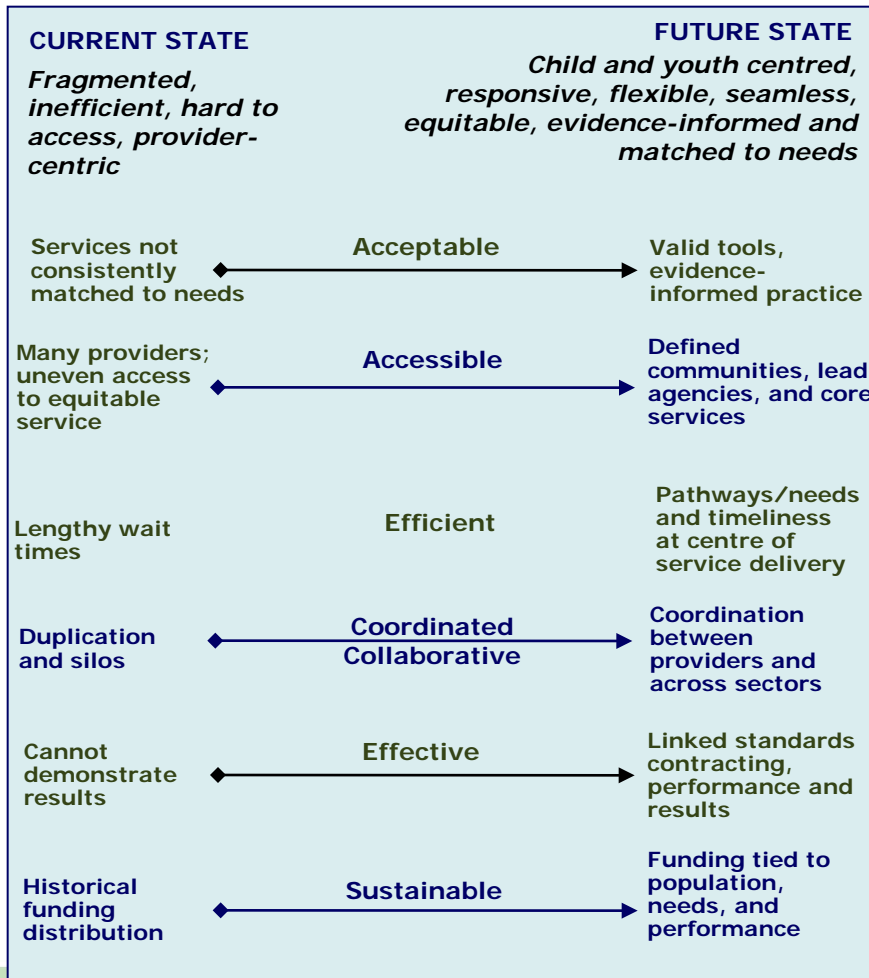
Moving Forward: Years 4+

Proposed Priorities

- The Ministry of Education will continue working across Ministries and with District School Boards to equip educators with the tools and knowledge they need to identify potential child and youth mental health and addictions issues and intervene effectively.
- Years 4+ will expand to include adults and addictions (led by MOHLTC), while maintaining and improving the work on children and youth from the first three years.
- The draft priorities for consideration for Years 4+ are to:
 - Improve planning, integration, accountability and transitions between and across systems,
 - Improve educational attainment and labour market attachment,
 - Improve delivery of addictions and concurrent disorder treatment services; and
 - Improve early identification and intervention, mental health promotion and addiction prevention.

Looking Ahead to 2015

Transformed Child and Youth Mental Health Services



What It will look like

- Parents, children and youth know how to access services, what is available to them, and what to expect at each point along transparent service pathways.
- Regardless of where they live, families have access to a consistent set of easy to identify supports and services through an identifiable lead agency that is accountable to government.
- Parents, children and youth have confidence in the people and agencies providing services.
- Wait times for service are timely, predictable, and matched to severity of need.
- Parents and funders know whether the services received have made a difference.