

**NEW MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTIONS SUPPORTS WITHIN HOUSING**  
**Support Services to Help People Maintain Housing and Improve Health**

**NEWS**

**February 26, 2016**

Some of Scarborough's most vulnerable residents will benefit from new support services that will help them maintain housing, and stabilize and improve their health. Today, at a Toronto Community Housing building in Scarborough, MPP Mitzie Hunter announced that a new investment made by the Central East Local Health Integration Network (Central East LHIN) will provide support services for people who live with complex mental health and addictions needs.

These new "wrap around" services will be provided in high risk communities and will include increased linkages to psychiatric services and primary care. It will also improve identification and management of chronic conditions and connect individuals with a Scarborough Health Link as appropriate.

Through a new partnership with the City of Toronto, Toronto Community Housing and Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA) Toronto Branch, this investment of over \$300,000 will initially support between 30-40 individuals annually who are precariously housed and will benefit from on-site mental health and addictions support services.

**QUOTES**

"I am so pleased to make this announcement today on behalf of Minister Hoskins and my Scarborough colleagues. I want to commend those involved with this initiative for recognizing the needs of vulnerable individuals in this community who require not only housing but mental health and addictions support to maintain their housing and improve their health."

- Mitzie Hunter, MPP Scarborough Guildwood

"The Central East LHIN set a goal in its 2016-19 Integrated Health Service Plan to continue to support people to achieve an optimal level of mental health and live healthier at home by spending 15,000 fewer days in hospital and reducing repeat unscheduled emergency department visits for reasons of mental health or addictions by 13% by 2019. With innovative programs demonstrated by the investments announced today we will reach and in fact exceed that goal."

- Deborah Hammons, Chief Executive Officer, Central East LHIN

"Toronto Community Housing is proud to be involved in this new partnership that will deliver services to some of our most vulnerable residents in Scarborough. By working with our partners like the Central East LHIN, we are connecting our high-needs communities with local community services to improve the lives and health of our residents and allow them to live independently."

- Greg Spearn, President and CEO (Interim), Toronto Community Housing

“CMHA Toronto is excited to be working with the Central East LHIN, the City of Toronto and Toronto Community Housing on this new initiative in Scarborough. We know that housing is key to maintaining good mental health, and believe that through this collaborative initiative, we can provide the supports our most vulnerable need in order to maintain their housing, which will lead to improved overall health and wellbeing.”

- Steve Lurie, Executive Director, CMHA Toronto

"This project builds on best practices from the national At Home/Chez Soi project. The type and level of support services planned are consistent with best practices that have proven successful across Canada. This project will enhance culturally appropriate pathways for individuals from diverse communities who live complex mental health, addiction and concurrent disorders, and will make a difference to the people who live in this community.”

- Dr. Ian Dawe, Central East LHIN Mental Health and Addictions Physician Lead – see video remarks [here](#).

#### **QUICK FACTS**

- The [Central East LHIN](#) has recently released its fourth [Integrated Health Service Plan \(IHSP 4\)](#). With the overarching goal of *Living Healthier at Home - Advancing integrated systems of care to help Central East LHIN residents live healthier at home*, the Central East LHIN 2016-2019 Integrated Health Service Plan (IHSP 4) will continue to guide, direct and inspire health system change for the next three years.
- [Toronto Community Housing](#) is the largest social housing provider in Canada and the second largest in North America. Toronto Community Housing is a corporation wholly owned by the City of Toronto.
- [CMHA Toronto Branch](#) - CMHA is a nation-wide, charitable organization that promotes the mental health of all and supports the resilience and recovery of people experiencing mental illness.

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