

# MENTAL HEALTH PEER SUPPORT SERVICES IN DURHAM CHANGING

Board of United Survivors Support Centre reaches out to partners

## NEWS

December 17, 2010

Clients of the United Survivors Support Centre (USSC), a peer-run mental health organization funded by the Central East LHIN, which runs a drop-in centre, outreach programs and provides assistance with daily living, from its Elgin Street East location in Oshawa, will see some changes in the new year as services transfer from USSC to Durham Mental Health Services (DMHS) and the Canadian Mental Health Association – Durham office.

All three agencies are working together to contact clients and let them know that effective December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2010, USSC will be closing the Elgin Street East office and on-going supports will be available through DMHS and CMHA-Durham.

In November, the Board of USSC met and determined that they had some challenges in meeting their accountability agreement with the LHIN. The accountability agreement, which all agencies must sign in order to receive funding from the LHIN, has strict requirements for financial reporting, volume targets and other performance measurements. The Board realized that in order to ensure that CSI services are available in the future, USSC would work with the LHIN to facilitate an integration with DMHS and CMHA-Durham.

An integration planning team, comprised of representatives from the LHIN, USSC, DMHS and CMHA-Durham, is now developing a Consumer Survivors Initiatives Durham Integration Plan. Feedback from current USSC clients and CSI partners is being collected as the plan is developed. The plan will be reviewed by the respective boards in January 2011 and the goal is to launch a new CSI service, accessible across all of Durham Region, in April 2011.

## QUOTES

“Consumer/Survivor Initiatives (CSIs) play a critical role in the local mental health system,” said Deborah Hammons, CEO, Central East LHIN. “We know that CSIs provide an excellent alternative to emergency department care as they support people in their recovery and so we are committed to ensuring that residents have access to sustainable CSI services now and in the future.”

## LEARN MORE

Visit the Central East LHIN website – [Resource Documents/Integration](#) – for more information on this proposed integration and to provide your feedback on the development of a DRAFT service delivery model.

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