



For Immediate Release:

CMHA HKPR adds three new front line positions through amalgamation

The Canadian Mental Health Association Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge Branch Board of Directors would like to announce that as a result of savings realized from the amalgamation of the Kawartha Lakes branch and the Peterborough branch we were able to add three new front line positions.

The new positions are:

- Mental Health Case Manager - Hospital to Home program in Peterborough
- Housing Support Worker in Kawartha Lakes
- Peer Outreach in Kawartha Lakes and surrounding area

The new permanent full time **Mental Health Case Manager**, will work within the hospital and community of Peterborough. They work collaboratively with other designated service providers to reduce Emergency Department revisits. The established goal is to address individuals with mental health and addiction needs who are frequently using the Emergency Department in Peterborough Regional Health Centre. The position includes the provision of follow up contact and short term case management for frequent users of Emergency Department services.

This position will complement the work of the existing Mental Health Case Manager (MHCM) who works within the Four County Crisis - Hospital to Home Program (H2H), a program of CMHA-HKPR Branch. The current MHCM works closely with the PRHC Inpatient Psychiatric Unit and Crisis Unit to provide support to individuals who are being discharged from hospital and who do not receive support in the community in which they reside. These individuals benefit from linkages and short term support to resolve or work through current issues contributing to their need for hospitalization or visits to the Emergency department. The goal of the H2H program is to provide services and supports to prevent use of the emergency room for individuals who can have their needs met best within the community. The current capacity of the program is limited with the lack of staff resources as the referrals are high. This new position will allow for support to more individuals and establish earlier connections to appropriate support through collaboration with the ER staff to identify those who are not admitted to the Crisis Unit, yet have repeating needs not met through other sources.

Note: A similar position exists within Ross Memorial Hospital.

The **Housing Support Worker** (HSW) position in Kawartha Lakes will work out of our 8-bed transitional group home and provides Housing Support Services to the tenants living there. Supports include life skills coaching, psycho-education, and recreational programming. This position will fill a gap that existed in Kawartha Lakes prior to integration.

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ACCREDITATION CANADA
AGREEMENT CANADA

For bequests, our legal name is:
CANADIAN MENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION
HALIBURTON, KAWARTHA, PINE RIDGE BRANCH

Charitable Registration No. # 10686 3889

This position has a positive domino effect - we are slowly transitioning many clients who have been in the Supportive Housing program for several years to the HSW's caseload. This process then creates vacancies on the Case Managers' caseloads so that they can provide more service to clients experiencing psychiatric instability. This position has paved the way for more people to get help. It is perceived positively by clients as well, as it truly falls in line with the recovery model.

Peer Outreach service enhancement in Kawartha Lakes has moved from .2 position to a full-time permanent position. This position will augment services in rural/remote communities and will be another service connection option for individuals being discharged from hospital.

The Peer Outreach Program uses peers to assist individuals living with mental illness and/or a dual diagnosis to improve the quality of their lives through the provision of community-based client centered services that support positive interdependence. Peer Support is based upon the principle that people who have life experiences in common have something to offer each other which cannot be provided by others.

This approach assumes that individuals who have experienced a serious mental illness can better understand and relate to individuals trying to deal with their mental illness and are in a unique position to offer assistance.

Quotes:

Mark Graham, CEO of the newly amalgamated CMHA states, "Savings in the range of \$200,000 of Central East Local Health Integration Network funding was realized through back office efficiencies upon completion of the integration March 31st, 2013. It is great to see these dollars being invested back into front line service provision."

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