

Building New Networks to Address the Mental Health Needs of Youth Whose Parents Have Mental Illnesses: A TRAM Network Focus on Family Mental Health

Objectives

- To increase the visibility and establish the prevalence of the number of youth living with parental mental illness (PMI)
- To educate primary health care providers on needs of youth living with PMI
- Implement evidence informed wrap around care strategies for these youth

Biggest challenges

- Overcoming the bio medical approach to services which results in missed opportunities to interact and intervene with youth in these circumstances
- Raising awareness of the needs of youth and their parents to ensure services to assist them

Who are the key leaders in your team?

Dr. Elaine Mordoch, Scientist, Manitoba Institute of Child Health, Faculty of Nursing, University of Manitoba. Publications on children and parental mental illness. PI of qualitative research studies pertaining to the needs of this population; received a CIHR meeting grant to establish further research priorities. On committee to organize international conference on this topic.

Dr. Brenda Gladstone, Research Scientist, Community Health Systems Group SickKids, Dalla Lana School of Public Health. Expertise in outcome evaluation; qualitative, participatory and arts-based health research knowledge translation methods; young carers; UK/Sweden research collaboration cross-country comparison youth living with PAI

Dr. Robert Lees Clinical Psychologist, Educator, Marriage and Family Therapist Practice Analyst. Established history of advocating for, providing intervention and raising awareness of this group. Chief organizer of international conference on families living with parental mental illness, young carers. Expertise in trauma issues, and youth; youth suicide

Dr. Grant Charles Researcher, Social Work, Educator. Varied experiences with youth and vulnerable populations; Experience with inter-professional networks and outcome research; interest in Young Carers issues.; recently on national CBC interview on Young Carers

Shannon Skogstad SW Psychiatric Social Worker. Acute Psychiatry Thesis: Mothers with Mental Illness and Access to Services. Expert knowledge of child and family services; previous experience in Child and Family services; rich clinical experience in mental health services

Which organisations are part of the team?

- Selected examples: Canadian Mental Health; Consumer: Parent and Youth Representatives; Education; CAMH; Families Association for Mental Health Everywhere (FAME); Family Centered Care Working Group; Ross Memorial Hospital Community Counselling Services; Oolagen Community Services; rep from Task Force on Young Carers

Contribute to a transformation

- We will raise awareness of this issue which has been well researched for over four decades and has established that these youth and their families require services to help them optimally manage their circumstances.
- We will implement evidence informed strategies that are currently being used in Europe, US, and Australia. These countries have established a range of intervention and mental health promotion services.
- We will target this population (considered at three times the risk to develop mental health problems) and implement a family approach across services (school, adult psychiatry, community services, youth mental health) to ensure that this group receives intervention and mental health promotion services.

Our team brings PASSION

- Our team is passionate about incorporating the voices of youth in services. We are working towards increased awareness of issues related to youth living with parental mental illness. We are well informed with a network of international colleagues. We are committed to increasing awareness and procuring innovative services to address needs of this well researched population.

Contact

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