



TRAIL SIGNS

Quality Services, Innovative Programming, Resource Development

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Advocacy....



Children's Mental Health Week
by Glen Newby, CEO

New Path was pleased to be participate in Children's Mental Health Week and the nationally recognized Children's Mental Health Day on Monday May 7, 2007. In sequence with Children's Mental Health Ontario, we hope to raise awareness of the mental health challenges so many of our children and youth face.

One in five children and youth suffer from mental health problems, yet only one in six of those receive the help they need. "In Simcoe County, this represents about 13,000 children and youth who are not receiving services", said Glen Newby recently. "This not only impacts the child or youth, but also the family, the classroom, the school, and the community".

Children's Mental Health Week seeks to reduce the stigma associated with children's mental health and to promote increased awareness of the early signs and symptoms of developing problems. We know that treatment works, but it works best when provided early. The more parents, care-givers and teachers, and young people themselves, are able to recognize and talk openly about the issues of children's mental health, the earlier help can be provided and the more effective that help can be. New Path believes that our children and youth are the most valuable and important resource for all of us, both today and tomorrow.

For more information on New Path services, please contact **Intake at: 705-725-7656**

Highlights

Children's Mental Health Week

Advocacy Brings Results—Minister Chambers Announces Increased Funding Support

by Glen Newby, CEO

Minister Mary Anne Chambers announced recently that children's mental health services across the province will be receiving an additional \$24 million dollars. This will translate into an approximate 5% increase in base budgets along with some funds to help develop the children's policy framework recently released at the Children's Mental Health Ontario Summit last November.

Other than a 3% cost-of-living increase a few years ago, this is the first base budget increase in well over a decade.

For further information on any Trail Signs articles e-mail the Editor.



Your Investment working for children , youth and families

Advocacy....cont'd

Advocacy Brings Results—Minister Chambers Announces Increased Funding Support

New Path CEO Glen Newby is particularly pleased with this announcement because of the efforts contributed to the province wide advocacy initiative “This funding increase will help ensure that children and youth in Simcoe County will continue to receive the current level and quality of service that they so much deserve”, says Newby. “Equally important is the fact that this government has now formally recognized the importance of children’s mental health services for our young people, their parents, other care-givers, and teachers. However, with less than 20% of children getting the help they need here in Simcoe County, we have a long way to go. But at least our government has helped to start that journey”.

Leadership....

Dare to Dream Project with the Provincial Centre of Excellence

One in Five Children and Youth Live with a Treatable Mental Health Problem.

STOP THE SILENCE. DEAL WITH IT.

by Jodi Brereton Souter, MA.CAGS

Lee Martin is a 16 year old previous client of New Path that designed a t-shirt with the statement Stop the Silence. The sales of the t-shirt are going to support New Path's Cookstown residential treatment program. Lee is planning to speak at local high schools and elementary schools about her story to raise awareness and advocate for children's mental health services within the county.



As a youth advocate she will be involved with Children's Mental Health Youth Engagement Initiative. Children's Mental Health Ontario and the Provincial Centre of Excellence for Child and Youth Mental Health have embarked on a collaborative youth engagement initiative.

The initiative will:

- Engage youth as partners to network with other professionals and youth across Ontario, to share experiences and opinions, to promote mental health and to advocate for a system that best meets their needs.
- Improve child and youth mental health service in Ontario by working to reduce stigma, make it easier to ask for help, to increase public acceptance of people with mental health issues, by advocating for children and youth mental health to be viewed as a health priority and by increasing the number of youth in governing positions.

"Don't speak about us without us." (African proverb)



Partnerships....

Simcoe County Attendance Centre

by Jerry Andrechek and Elizabeth Mckeeman

The Attendance Centre for Simcoe was created from a strong environment of collaboration amongst service providers in Simcoe County, with Coalition members developing the proposal together. As a result we have a unique, multi-agency effort to serve up to 70 youth justice clients.

The Centre uses a community based Advisory Committee to guide current and future development. The Committee includes representation from Youth Justice, Child Welfare, Children's Mental Health, Addictions Services, Police, and the Municipality.

Specialized literacy and education services are provided by qualified teachers. Core programming is provided by New Path and include Life Skills / Problem Solving, Anger Management, Cognitive Behavioral Counselling, Nutrition Education (practical hands-on food preparation), Referral Coordination, and Parent Support. New Path also coordinates the Steering Committee and ensures appropriate community linkages. Building upon the principles of "structured flexibility", the Attendance Centre has developed specialized service agreements with community organizations to bring their expertise to bear for the client group. All services are evidenced based and include:



- ✓ Available Multi Systemic Therapy (MST)
- ✓ Youth Addictions Treatment from Simcoe Outreach Services
- ✓ Youth Employment Services from Brock Resource Centre
- ✓ Recreation Services from Barrie Youth Centre
- ✓ Literacy and Education Services
- ✓ Psychiatric and/or Psychological Services

The Attendance Centre is located in Barrie, in an accessible, newly renovated 1900 square foot facility. The site set-up ensures a safe, functional environment for individual and group programming, and enjoys a full kitchen and separate computer stations for clients.

The assessment process includes the BCFPI, as well as the Probation Risk/Needs Assessment Tool, and is designed to accomplish three primary goals:

1. Ensure an individualized approach that addresses the underlying needs and problems of youth;
2. To identify the appropriate evidenced based practices and programs to include in each youth's service plan, and;
3. To provide benchmarks for client progress and program evaluation.



Partnerships.... cont'd

Another Collaborative Partnership for New Path

by Elizabeth McKeeman

New Path is expanding its youth justice programs with the addition of funding in January 2007 for a school based diversion pilot. New Path is one of 6 new areas awarded funding by the Ministry of Youth Justice to establish an innovative program in partnership with police services and the school board to work with youth who are at risk of, or in conflict with, the law. The program's objectives include:

- Improving school engagement and attachment
- Reducing rates of suspension and expulsion
- Encouraging pro-social behaviour and responsibility
- Improving conflict management skills
- Increasing support for learning
- Reducing charges resulting from school conflict.



New Path's counsellor Jessica Proctor, is located in Nantyr Shores High School in Alcona and is actively developing the program for youth between the ages of 12 and 17 in collaboration with Jean Hargreaves, the principal of Nantyr Shores and Judy Walker of the South Simcoe Police Services. Students are able to access services easily in their own school. The flexible program will have a number of components including peer mediation, short term counselling and support services, pro-social skill development groups, referrals and linkages with other community agencies through the local COMPASS team as well as consultation to school personnel. A contractual arrangement with Simcoe Outreach Services will enable students experiencing abuse problems to access counselling in the school.

Stay tuned for more information as the program is rolled out!

Donate now to New Path and become a part of the solution.

Call for further information at 1 705 733 2654 Ext 229,228

or mail cheque to:

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We would love to hear from you: Email or Write

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