

Guiding Principles

Lead Agency and Core Service Providers

Preamble:

As we embark on the implementation of the *Moving on Mental Health* strategy to transform child and youth mental health service delivery in York, in concert with other parts of Ontario, it will be imperative for Kinark, as Lead Agency, and a core service provider, and other core service providers to work together collaboratively and effectively in order to achieve our shared goal of better outcomes for children, youth and families.

As shared values and common principles are widely regarded as key enablers of strong and effective partnerships, and as we are together stepping into a new environment after many years of working together, we seek to articulate shared values and guiding principles for our work together.

Values:

- Transparency and mutual accountability
- Informed decision making process based on the best available information
- Integrity and respect in our work together
- Reciprocity – communication and sharing is 2-way
- Inclusion of client and family perspective
- Equitable access to services to all children, youth and their families
- Effectiveness and continuous quality improvement
- Leadership
- Diversity (leveraging unique characteristics)
- Build on assets and appreciate strengths

Guiding Principles:

Our decisions will be centred on children and youth within the context of their families and communities

- Holding children, youth and their families at the centre of all of our discussions and decision-making is of paramount importance. The basis for our work as service providers transforming the York service system is to focus on what is best for children, youth and their families.

Our responsibility is to build an effective service system

- An effective service system delivers the right services to the right kids and their families through the right providers at the right time
- Our work will be grounded in what builds that strong service system in York, over and above the interests of any individual service provider (including the Lead Agency).

We believe that we will achieve more together

- This principle speaks to the importance of seeking to work together, rather than in isolation, and being open enough to learn about each other and to leverage each other's strengths in order to build a coordinated, cohesive system of service providers in York, thereby leveraging existing networks, inherent capacities and/or enhancing current community assets
- Clarity of roles and responsibilities will be important during this process recognizing differential functions, responsibilities and accountability but also optimizing the whole system where the whole is greater than the sum of its parts

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We want York to have the best possible service quality

- Decisions will be based on evidence and we will strive to evaluate the impact of everything that we do.

Stewardship of the public trust and public resources is our shared responsibility

- We recognize that resources are scarce and needs are great and that public funding is provided to us, directly or indirectly, to make a difference for children, youth and families.

Change is an opportunity and a challenge

- In order for outcomes for children, youth and families to improve, our work needs to change. It is important to identify the opportunities and respect the challenges. Those most affected by the change, including staff at all levels must be engaged in the change.

Guiding principles for the System Development

Preamble:

Within the Service Delivery Framework for MOMH that was developed by the Ministry in 2013, a fairly set and standardized Vision was laid out for all CYMH service providers (including Lead Agencies) against which to structure the transformation of children's mental health services. Below are the principles that we adhere to as the core service providers in York as we work undertake this work.

- a. Children and youth and their families have access to a comprehensive array of services**
- b. Services are individualized**
- c. Services are received within the least restrictive environment**
- d. Services are culturally sensitive**
- e. Families are included as full participants in service planning, delivery and evaluation**
- f. Case management is provided to ensure service coordination and system navigation**
- g. The system promotes early identification and intervention**
- h. The system incorporates transitional supports to families (hospital to community, service to service, day treatment to school, agency to agency, developmental milestones, etc.)**
- i. Children and youth with mental health issues are ensured a smooth transition to adult services when they reach age of maturity**
- j. The rights of children and youth with mental health needs are protected**
- k. Children and youth with mental health issues and their families receive services regardless of race, religion, national origin, sex, physical disability or other characteristics**