



Addiction & Mental Health Services | services de lutte contre les dépendances et de santé mentale
Kingston Frontenac Lennox & Addington



Canadian Mental
Health Association

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 26, 2019

Addictions and Mental Health Services – Kingston, Frontenac, Lennox and Addington (AMHS-KFLA) begin formal discussions on integration with the Canadian Mental Health Association – Kingston Branch (CMHA Kingston)

Karen Berti, AMHS-KFLA Supervisor and Sherry Lachine, CMHA Kingston Board President, are pleased to announce that formal discussions have begun in partnership to explore the opportunity to integrate into one entity. This partnership is voluntary and, while in the early stages of discussion, is supported by CMHA Ontario.

AMHS-KFLA and CMHA Kingston are currently two distinct community health service providers striving to provide accessible, high-quality, client-focused care while working towards reducing stigma and promoting wellbeing primarily within similar communities. It has been through the development of a strong partner relationship and inter-agency collaboration that an integrated future state is envisioned.

Driven by the desire to establish a client-centred, connected continuum of addictions and mental health services in the region, both agencies are entering into a Memorandum of Understanding that identifies shared agreement to a collaborative and transparent process and establishes a multi-staged framework (i.e., planning, implementation, end-state), in support of creating a single integrated agency.

A Planning Team has been established and next steps will include the development of a formal communications and stakeholder engagement plan. It is anticipated that through this work, clients, their families, partner organizations, and the community at large will benefit from a streamlined, people-focused service model that addresses mental health and addictions concerns, and best supports wellness and the recovery journey of those we collectively support.

Quotes:

“The Canadian Mental Health Association in Kingston has just celebrated 40 years of reinforcing positive attitudes and behaviours towards mental health, increasing awareness, reducing stigma and creating opportunities for education. We are excited to have a larger opportunity to support our community. Mental health is not just mental illness, they are related but different. We need to continue to increase mental health literacy for all and advocate for those needing support. This partnership is developing at the right time, in the right way for our community.”

Sherry Lachine, CMHA Kingston Board President

“This is an exciting opportunity for AMHS-KFLA at a critical point in the agency. The potential for our two organizations to work together to fully support our clients in the full continuum of care, ensuring education through to full wrap around support for clients with addictions and mental illness. This opportunity allows for no client to fall between the cracks and be truly supported in all aspects of their journey to recovery.”

Karen Berti, AMHS-KFLA Supervisor

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Background - Agency Mandates

In the context of addictions and mental health services across the continuum of care CMHA-KFLA supports individuals primarily with mental health care navigation, education and support groups, while AMHS-KFLA provides a range of programs and services to clients with serious mental health illness and addictions – our most ill, and crisis services are available to anyone.

www.amhs-kfla.ca

www.cmhakingston.com