



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

March 26, 2019

### **AMHS-KFLA MAKES CHANGES TO STRENGTHEN LOCAL MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTIONS SERVICES**

AMHS-KFLA is taking action now to transform the organization and deliver on its mission to provide quality care and services for the growing numbers of people in our communities who experience mental health and addictions challenges. The transformation has one clear focus: to improve the recovery journey for clients and provide ongoing support through a seamless, coordinated system of care.

These changes support issues detailed by an Investigator appointed by the South East Local Health Integration Network (LHIN) and documented in the 2018 Investigator's Report. A Supervisor was subsequently appointed to AMHS-KLFA by the South East LHIN in December 2018 and is now responsible for implementing the transformation plan.

The nine-month plan will refocus AMHS-KFLA's programs and service delivery to reflect recent advances and evidence-informed practices in the mental health and addictions sector. This will result in changes to the workforce which include both elimination of positions and creation of new positions that support the future vision of our new models of care and service delivery.

The jobs affected by notice of layoff include 39 full-time unionized members of OPSEU Local 489, three part-time unionized members, as well as non-unionized employees and managers and a reduction in the casual/temporary pool. Additionally, 30 new full-time positions will be created, the majority of them in the regulated health professions, to provide clients with different skills, models of care and service. Other part-time and casual positions will also be created. As per the collective agreement, these changes were discussed on March 12 with the union leadership and continued communication over the past two weeks with union leadership

As staff roles are transitioned, client services will be maintained without disruption. In the months ahead, AMHS will continue to work closely with staff, clients and families, and health care and community partners to strengthen programs and services, without duplication or gaps.

**QUOTE:**

“The changes we make today will ensure clients and families have improved access to an integrated system of care – one that relies on proven evidence based practices and advancements to support the journey to recovery,” said Karen Berti, Supervisor for AMHS-KFLA.

*AMHS-KFLA provides responsive, confidential, non-judgmental, community-based addiction and mental health services to nearly 8000 individuals in Kingston, Frontenac, Lennox and Addington. Our vision is a community where people have wellness, acceptance and a sense of belonging.*

**For more information, please contact:**

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