



Children's Mental Health Ontario Welcomes Investment in Community-Based Mental Health Services by Ministry of Children and Youth Services

Friday, January 22, 2016, Toronto, ON: Children's Mental Health Ontario (CMHO) welcomes today's announcement by Minister Flynn that \$6 million will be provided by the Ontario government to support mental health services to children and youth where it will be most effective, in the communities where they live.

While much more is needed, this additional injection into the province's community-based children's mental health centres comes at a critical time and is being directed effectively to community mental health care. Research shows that community-based care for children and youth with mental illness improves outcomes. "Supporting community-based children's mental health services is a wise investment," said Kim Moran, CEO Children's Mental Health Ontario. "Immediate and long-term investment of community-based mental health centres is needed especially at this critical time when demand for services is growing by 10% per year in Ontario and the province is seeing a 58 per cent increase in in-patient admissions for children and youth with mental health disorders. Today's announcement is an important step in the right direction towards bridging the large funding gap of children's mental health in Ontario and improving community-based access to the most needed mental health services for children and youth and their families facing mental illness."

CMHO has called on the province to increase its support of community-based children and youth mental health services and does so again in its soon to be released 2016 pre-budget submission. CMHO is also working closely with the Ministry of Children and Youth Services to transform the way community-based mental health services are delivered so wise investments like this will make a strong impact and help its nearly 100 member centres to support kids with the services they need when they need it in the communities where they live.

CMHO represents close to 100 accredited, community-based children's mental health centres across the province including the lead agencies which will receive and direct these funds.

To learn more about how to improve mental health outcomes for Ontario's children and youth through strategic investment in community-based mental health centres, visit www.kidsmentalhealth.ca.

For more information, please contact Christine Pelletier at 416-921-2109 ext. 130 or christine@cmho.org.

Children's Mental Health Ontario works to identify and develop solutions to important policy issues affecting the child and youth mental health sector. We represent more than 85 accredited children's mental health agencies that provide treatment and support to children, youth and families. This includes targeted prevention, early intervention, short- and long-term counselling and therapy, and intensive services such as residential care.