

# Addiction Services

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Professional Practice Leader (Charlton, King, West 5th)

## Scope of Practice

Supporting and empowering people to achieve their well-being goals through collaboration. Addiction Workers act as a bridge and navigators to supports, knowledge, information and service. A wide range of services are provided for patients at all stages of change and include harm reduction, pharmacological treatments, and include services and education for family members.

Addiction Workers role includes increasing capacity of other healthcare professionals throughout the organization and the larger system to provide integrated care and decrease stigma towards persons who use substances.

## Number of Members of Discipline:

SITE	FTE	POSITION
Charlton	3.5	Addiction Attendants, Senior Addiction Attendants, Community Support Counsellors – Addiction Specialists
West 5th	9.5	Addiction Attendants, Senior Addiction Attendants, Community Support Counsellors – Addiction Specialists
Offsite	31	Addiction Attendants, Senior Addiction Attendants, Community Support Counsellors – Addiction Specialists

## Major Achievements

### CARING

#### Clinical Practice:

- Facilitated conversation and awareness of the stigma surrounding people who use substances, their support networks and service providers
- Implemented Mindfulness Recovery to better meet the needs of clients in action/maintenance stage of change
- Enhanced outreach strategies to build relationships with organizations in the community and provide addiction and mental health support to individuals
- Continued to support hospital Emergency Department diversion in partnership with Hamilton Paramedic Services
- Modified website and other descriptive materials to be inclusive of transgender and gender non-conforming clients

### LEARNING

#### Education:

##### Clinical Education

- Social Service Worker students and Registered Social Work students
- Concurrent Disorder placement students
- Addiction Studies students
- Clerical and high school co-op students

## LEARNING

### Education Continued...

#### Formal Teaching

- McMaster Neurobiology of Disease, Department of Psychology, Neuroscience and Behaviour
- Mohawk College Community Services Field Preparation Workshop
- Mohawk College – Concurrent Disorders Program
- Mohawk College – Justice Program
- Concurrent Disorders 101 delivered to over 200 students in grades 10-12

#### Internal Education

- Concurrent Disorders and Stigma Education
- Naloxone Training and Distribution, Harm Reduction Supplies
- “Time is Now” presented at Grand Rounds
- Mental Health & Addictions Program Rounds: Addiction Services, Trauma Education

### Research:

Addiction Workers are critical participants in:

- Progress and Outcome Monitoring – Peter Boris Centre and Homewood Research Institute

## BUILDING

### Staff:

- Social Work Degree attained
- Acceptance and Commitment Therapy Certification completed
- Trauma Certificate Wilfred Laurier University attained

### Professional Practice Development:

- Emerging Leaders Program Indigenous Cultural Safety Training
- The Canadian Centre on Substance Use and Addiction's Issues of Substance conference attended
- Addiction Care and Treatment University of British Columbia certification
- Trauma Informed Practice and the Opioid Crisis
- Connecting: A Guide to Using Harm Reduction Supplies as Engagement Tools
- Understanding Harm Reduction Principles and Practice
- Dialectal Behavior Training skills group facilitation
- Cognitive Processing Therapy training

## LEADING

- Organized and offered in collaboration with Hamilton Public Health harm reduction supplies across the discipline areas for better accessibility and encourage individuals to use safely and feel comfortable talking about their substance use
- Offered a drop-in clinic which allows clients who may have missed appointments to connect regarding medication concerns in a consistent and low-barrier manner

## LEADING Continued...

- Created a new waiting room in Concurrent Disorders Outpatient programs with resources to meet the needs of individuals accessing the service

## External Activities:

### Presentations

- National Conference CAEH23 Halifax – Youth Substance Use Program Provides Dignity to Young People Who Use Substance
- How to Support Individuals Living in Supportive Housing and Using Substances – Harm Reduction Approach
- Overdose Awareness Day
- Crisis Intervention Team Training at Hamilton Police Services

### Committees

- Mohawk College Social Service Worker Program Advisory Committee
- Mohawk College Concurrent Disorders Program Advisory Committee
- Hospital Shelter working Group
- Homeless Individuals and Families Information System Superusers Working Group
- Woman Abuse Working Group
- Hamilton Emergency Shelter Operators Coordination Table
- Overdose Awareness Day
- Women’s Housing Planning Collaborative Steering Committee and Service Coordination Committee
- Women’s Advisory to the Hamilton Police Chief
- Hamilton Police Service and Emergency Shelter Communication Protocol Committee
- Helping Ourselves through Peer Support and Employment
- Human Service and Justice Coordination Committee

## Major Initiatives for 2024/25:

### CARING

- Investigate new ways to integrate Peter Boris Centre Automated Screening Tool into measurement-based care

### LEARNING

- Provide professional development opportunities to enhance healthcare workers’ knowledge, skills, and abilities
- Participate in Canadian Society of Addiction Medicine
- Develop Core Skills and Knowledge Training for Withdrawal Management

### BUILDING

- Continue to advocate and enhance harm reduction distribution across organization

### LEADING

- Continue to build on collaborations within and externally to provide better pathways and transitions