

Communication from: CMHA Tri-County Branches

To: Community
From: Len Caro, CEO, CMHA, Chatham- Kent
Pamela G. Hines, CEO, CMHA, Windsor-Essex County
Alan Stevenson, CEO, CMHA, Sarnia-Lambton
Date: November 10, 2008
Re: Feasibility Study Three Branch Integration

Over the past two years there has been a consistent intent in each of our three branches (Chatham-Kent, Sarnia and Windsor-Essex) to work toward some level of integration of services.

Each of our three boards have now approved that we undertake a full scale cost/benefit analysis of the potential for integration at every level of our work, including the possibility of merger of the three branches.

The Local Health Integration Networks across Ontario have placed mental health and substance abuse services high on their agendas. At the same time, as the main funders of community mental health services, they have pressed for integration of services as a way to improve continuity of care, coordination of services and to reduce duplication of services.

We have hired Glenn Thompson as a consultant to assist us with our study. Mr. Thompson's bio is attached. When the scope of the study and the Work Plan are approved we will provide further information. Our intention is to start the study immediately and to complete it by March 16/09.

The Consultant may want to meet with the staff of each branch to describe the feasibility study and to indicate ways in which staff can contribute.

Our firm commitment in carrying out this study is that any new organizational and/or service delivery arrangement will have the capacity to increase the level and quality of front line services delivery in each of our catchment areas.

ESC LHIN supports this initiative and looks forward to assisting the consultant identify opportunities to enhance direct services to persons with mental illness and their families.

Biography

Glenn R. Thompson, BA MSW RSW

Glenn Thompson has an extensive background in a variety of non-profit and governmental organizations in Canada and the UK, dealing with individuals, social problems and public policy. He spent one year with the Ministry of Health in the UK where he was employed as a psychiatric social worker at a therapeutic community psychiatric hospital. From 2000, he spent two years with the Government of Nunavut where he was the Executive Director, Baffin Region, Department of Health and Social Services.

In the 16 years between 1975 and 1991, Glenn served as Deputy Minister in six Ontario government ministries. He served as Deputy Minister of Correctional Services from 1975 to 1981, where he began his social work career in 1960. Subsequently, he was Deputy Minister of Energy, Government Services, Municipal Affairs, Labour and Housing.

His Deputy Minister appointments spanned Ontario's three major political parties and four Ontario Premiers.

Following his retirement from the Ontario Public Service in 1991, after 30 years, Mr. Thompson joined the Canadian Mental Health Association, Ontario Division, as Executive Director where he served for 9 years. After his subsequent two years in Nunavut, he was appointed as half time Executive Director of the Canadian Criminal Justice Association in Ottawa from 2002, for 18 months, to stabilize the organization and to assist in locating a permanent Executive Director. From the fall of 2004 he returned to the CMHA, Ontario Division as Interim CEO for several months and during 2006/07 was the Interim CEO of the CMHA, National, in both cases assisting in the search for a permanent CEO.

In August 2007 Glenn joined the Mental Health Commission of Canada as Interim President and CEO a position he held until February 2008 when Michael Howlett was appointed. Glenn is assisting with the handover process at the Commission at present and is Secretary to the Board of Directors.

In 2005/06, as a volunteer, Glenn co-chaired, with Ruth Stoddart, the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care Depression Strategy Advisory Committee. That Committee developed a chronic disease strategy for depression for the Ministry.

Through 2007 and until September 2008, Mr. Thompson chaired the Minister's Expert Panel on Standards of Care for the Administration of Psychotropic Medications to Children and Youth in Licensed Residential Settings for the Ministry of Children and Youth in Ontario.

Mr. Thompson was awarded the Governor General's Centennial Medal in 1967 and in 2000 was awarded the Ontario Lieutenant Governor's Medal of Distinction in Public Administration.