



CANADIAN MENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION
ASSOCIATION CANADIENNE POUR LA SANTE MENTALE
WINDSOR-ESSEX COUNTY BRANCH

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 30, 2011

Local agency earns quality designation

WINDSOR – A local mental health agency has been recognized for its commitment to quality care, client-centred programs and expert staff.

The Canadian Mental Health Association Windsor-Essex County Branch (CMHA-WECB) has been awarded full accreditation under the Accreditation Canada guidelines.

“We are so proud of the work we do here for our community,” explains Acting Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Mary Wilson. “Our staff are experts in the field of mental health and they work hard, every day, for the betterment of our clients and their families.”

Surveyors from Accreditation Canada spent time at the agency earlier this month. During this time, they interviewed management, staff, board members, volunteers and community partners about the care offered at CMHA-WECB. The focus of the accreditation standards are on governance, risk management, leadership, infection prevention and control, and medication management.

“We have been fully accredited and this speaks to the quality of care offered by our organization,” says Wilson.

Accreditation Canada is “a not-for-profit, independent organization that provides health organizations with an external peer review to assess the quality of their services based on standards of excellence.” Their programs are “research and evidence-based” and are developed “in close consultation with key stakeholders.”

Wilson says that CMHA-WECB is committed to a culture of quality improvement. The agency is involved in ongoing assessment of compliance to standards of excellence with a formal on-site assessment by Accreditation Canada every three years.

CMHA-WECB is a community mental health agency dedicated to “mentally healthy people in a healthy society”. It offers a variety of programs for people experiencing a serious mental illness such as intensive case management, court support, housing and early intervention. It also offers an adult and children bereavement program which includes one-to-one and group support.

The organization is supported by the Erie-St. Clair Local Health Integration Network (LHIN), the United Way and through community donations.

For more information on CMHA please visit www.cmha-wecb.on.ca.

-30-

For further info please contact Patti Lauzon, Director of Advancement, 519-255-9940 ext. 224 or plauzon@cmha-wecb.on.ca.