



CANADIAN MENTAL  
HEALTH ASSOCIATION  

---

L'ASSOCIATION CANADIENNE  
POUR LA SANTÉ MENTALE

## **CMHA-WECB WELCOMES ANNOUNCEMENT OF \$857,510 IN NEW FUNDING FOR LOCAL MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES**

**Windsor, ON (January 12, 2005)** – The Windsor-Essex branch of the Canadian Mental Health Association, welcomes today's announcement by Ontario Health Minister George Smitherman committing \$857,510 for our community. With these dollars, CMHA can help those with a mental illness to get the care they need outside of hospitals or correctional facilities and as close to home as possible.

"We are extremely pleased with today's announcement," said Pamela Hines, CEO, CMHA-WECB. "It will permit us to expand our existing Justice Program. Future involvement in the criminal justice system is reduced for individuals with a serious mental illness who have access to our programs and have an individualized plan of support."

The program is available to persons with a serious and persistent mental illness who have been charged with a criminal offence. It is also available to individuals referred by their probation officer.

This new funding will support a full spectrum of programs including: Short-Term Crisis Support that will provide two crisis beds; two positions for Court Support Services; one position for Intensive Case Management; and 30 subsidized residential units where CMHA's clients will be supported by case managers.

To date, the Branch's Housing Program has successfully filled 110 subsidized units in the community through its *Homelessness Initiative* and provides appropriate supports in operating three group homes with 14 beds and a 24-Hour home that can accommodate ten individuals.

For over 30 years, CMHA-WECB has been part of the health care delivery system for Windsor and Essex County. Its mission is to enhance and promote the mental health of all persons and support the resilience and recovery of people experiencing mental illness in our community through education, prevention, advocacy and services.

-30-

Contact:  
Zoja Holman  
Community Development Officer  
255-9940 ext 217