



CANADIAN MENTAL  
HEALTH ASSOCIATION  
L'ASSOCIATION CANADIENNE  
POUR LA SANTÉ MENTALE

## **Attention: Assignment Editors**

### **LOCAL AGENCY BENEFITS FROM MCGUINTY GOVERNMENT'S INVESTMENT IN COMMUNITY BASED MENTAL HEALTH**

**Windsor, ON (July 14, 2005)** – The Canadian Mental Health Association, Windsor-Essex County Branch (CMHA-WECB), welcomes today's announcement by Minister Smitherman, committing \$987,152 to local community mental health services. Earmarked for Case Management services and Early Intervention, the nearly one million dollars in new funding will extend the local branch's ability to provide support to individuals experiencing serious mental illness in Windsor and Essex County.

"We are grateful that this government is making an investment in mental health by realigning funding to provide meaningful support to those with mental illness in our community," stated John Clark, President of the Board of Directors. "This funding will advance our goal of a full-spectrum of mental health services available and accessible to our community – in our community."

Most of the new funding, \$700,000 is designated for Case Management and will provide around 8 additional full-time positions to Community Support Services. This is a significant investment. Once the funding is in place, it will mean more than 20 per cent increased staffing capabilities for the program and could potentially support hundreds of individuals with mental illness. It will also be a 10 per cent staffing increase for the Agency as a whole.

"We are very pleased with today's announcement – CMHA's foundation was built on case management and it continues to be our primary service," said Pamela Hines, CEO. "But, we can also do more for future generations with mental illness. Early Intervention will be the key to helping individuals manage their illness successfully over time."

Early Intervention was identified as a branch priority in the 2004-2007 Strategic Plan. The allocation of \$200,000 in new funding will also create positions for early intervention. "CMHA-WECB looks forward to working with partners such as Dr. Len Cortese and the Schizophrenia & First Episode Psychosis Program on early intervention and the local hospitals to further enhance all mental health services available to individuals experiencing a mental illness," added Hines.

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In 2003-2004 CMHA-WECEB reached over 15,000 individuals in Windsor and Essex County. CMHA-WECEB programs and services include:

- *Community Support Services*, a program to provide flexible one to one support for individuals living with persistent mental illness through a continuum of case management functions utilizing person-centred planning;
- *Prevention Services*, mental health services open to the general public including public education, bereavement programs and an unemployment stress program;
- *Resource Centre*, programs geared to specific populations or services for individuals with SMI including advocacy, outreach and justice;
- *Housing Services*, a program to provide housing for more than 135 individuals with a serious mental illness through a 24 Hour Home, 3 group homes and 110 independent rental units throughout Windsor-Essex;
- *Employment Services*, employment and workplace training programs that include property maintenance for all Agency assets and experiential learning via Serendipity Café;
- *Integrated Health Services*, A primary care clinic with 2 full-time nurse practitioners and additional medical support on a part-time basis including: 2 general practitioners, 2 psychiatrists and 1 psychologist. A new satellite community health centre to open on-site in 2005 that will see these services expanded and increased;
- *Workplace Health Services*, a contract or fee for service program geared to companies and organizations to provide support to their employees through an employee assistance program as part of their extended health benefits.

The Canadian Mental Health Association, Windsor-Essex County Branch was established in 1971 and is part of a national voluntary organization that provides service to Canadians in 135 communities.

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