

Advisory Committee

TERMS OF REFERENCE

PREAMBLE:

The Youth Mental Health and Addiction Champions (YMHAC) Initiative aims to improve the health and well-being of children and youth through a focus on mental health promotion, acceptance of mental illness and reduction of related stigma, and substance misuse prevention. The Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario (RNAO) in partnership with Public Health Units and various community partners from across Ontario will jointly prepare youth peer leaders in champion roles to increase knowledge and awareness of mental health and substance misuse issues and develop the resiliency in children, youth and the community they live in through capacity building and youth engagement. Initiative objectives include:


1. Use established/trained cohort of Youth Mental Health and Addiction Champions as a creative peer-to-peer strategies to promote good mental health and wellness and reduce the stigma of mental illness as a part of the health and illness continuum.
2. Provide Youth Mental Health and Addiction Champions with strategies to assist peers with substance abuse prevention through raising awareness of available information and re-sources/services.
3. Support youth in planning, implementing and evaluating youth led health promotion activities at local schools across Ontario to create resilient and supportive communities.

PURPOSE:

The Advisory Committee provides overall advice and strategic direction, as required, and implementation of the Youth Mental Health and Addiction Champions Initiative. The Committee works closely with the RNAO Initiative Team.





MANDATE:

1. Provide relevant input related to the various activities of the Initiative, reflecting stakeholder view-points.
 2. Provide overall strategic direction and feedback to the Youth Mental Health and Addictions Cham-pions Initiative.
 3. Continue to implement and expand (where applicable) the Youth Mental Health and Addiction Champions Initiative within local community.
 4. Monitor the progress of the Initiative toward the overall objectives through periodic status and sharing meetings.
 5. Provide direction for strategies for Youth Mental Health and Addiction Champions Initiative sustainability.
 6. Promote involvement in the Initiative activities and events to various stakeholder networks.
 7. Serve as advocates for the Initiative on an on-going basis.
 8. Each member to represent the voice and input from youth, respective of their geographical regions and local contexts.
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COMPOSITION:

Members will include:

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- ★ RNAO Program Manager will be the Chair of the Youth Mental Health and Addiction Advisory Committee.
 - ★ Membership will include up to a maximum of two (2) representatives from RNAO.
 - ★ Membership will include up to a maximum of two (2) representatives from each of the Public Health Initiative Partners who have expertise in Youth, Mental Health and/or Addictions.
 - ★ Provincial stakeholders invited based on their knowledge, expertise and interest in the area of Youth, Mental Health and/or Addictions.
 - ★ Youth members involved ad hoc.
Note: Youth voice will be sought using a consultative model in the Initiative, with the understanding of extending invitations to youth representatives when necessary, at an ad hoc basis.
 - ★ Other members with key knowledge/experience in Youth, Mental Health and/or Addictions as consultation and/or resources will be invited ad hoc, when necessary.



TERM OF APPOINTMENT:

- August 1, 20xx to August 30, 20xx
subject to change dependent on future funding

MEETINGS:

- There will be a minimum of four (4) teleconference meetings during the duration of the initiative and additional teleconferences as needed.

SCHEDULED MEETINGS 2015/2016

November 3rd, 20xx

February 4th, 20xx

May 4th, 20xx

August 4th, 20xx