

Psychiatric Outreach



A Community-based Approach to Mental Health



Why There is a Need for Psychiatric Outreach:

This project has demonstrated that many homeless individuals have untreated mental illnesses. It takes relationship building and the helping of people with their basic needs to build the trust necessary to discuss further means of support. The psychiatrist and support workers alike have observed first hand how unemployment, poverty and the lack of belonging have a huge impact on mental illness and can lead to homelessness. **Currently this service operates 2 days per week and has approximately 70 clients, which have been seen up to 7 times.**



Goals and Objectives of the Psychiatric Outreach Program:

- Increased safety to individuals and others
- Reduced crisis for homeless individuals
- Increase the mental health of homeless individuals
 - Increase access to psychiatric care for homeless individuals
- Increase access to basic needs for homeless individuals by conducting ODSP assessments thereby increasing the capacity of individuals to receive more appropriate supports
 - Increase the connection to mainstream services
 - Decrease the costs of hospital treatment

Overview of Psychiatric Outreach:

Locations:

The psychiatric outreach program started at and operates from the following locations: Cambridge Shelter Corporation, Mary's Place, St. John's Community Kitchen, Reaching Our Outdoor Friends and the House of Friendship. Clients are referred to the psychiatrist and/or physician who provides medical and mental health care services.

Resources:

The psychiatrist and physician are supported by, outreach and shelter workers, and an IMG (International Medical Graduate) who provides cleric medical and record keeping support.

Process:

There is a close collaboration between the identification programs, shelters, community kitchens, physicians and Ontario Works. The psychiatrist provides support to the Kitchener Downtown Community Health Centre enhancing their ability to lend support to individuals with mental health problems.

ODSP Support :

This project has been very successful in helping homeless individuals with serious mental health problems access Ontario Disabilities Support Program, which helps them to obtain the resources needed to find accommodations.



97 Victoria: An Integrated Community Resource Including Psychiatric Care Access

The Working Centre is currently undertaking a major renovation project at 97 Victoria St. N in Kitchener. This building will become a new community resource that will serve as the new home of St. John's Kitchen, and provide space for the Worth a Second Look Furniture and Housewares Retail and Recycling Centre, the Job Café, and shower, locker and laundry facilities. Psychiatric Outreach will also operate from the new location. By having in one place a number of community tools and services which help provide for people's basic needs, from food to employment to community involvement, as well as access to psychiatric care, more complete solutions can be found for individuals facing complex problems that may require a number of supports to solve.

Organizations Involved in Psychiatric Outreach:

- The Working Centre / St. John's Kitchen
- Schedule 1 hospital
- Regional Municipality of Waterloo Ontario Works and Employment and Income Supports
- Kitchener Downtown Community Health Centre
- Kitchener Downtown Business Association
- R.O.O.F.
- The Bridges
- House of Friendship
- Mary's Place



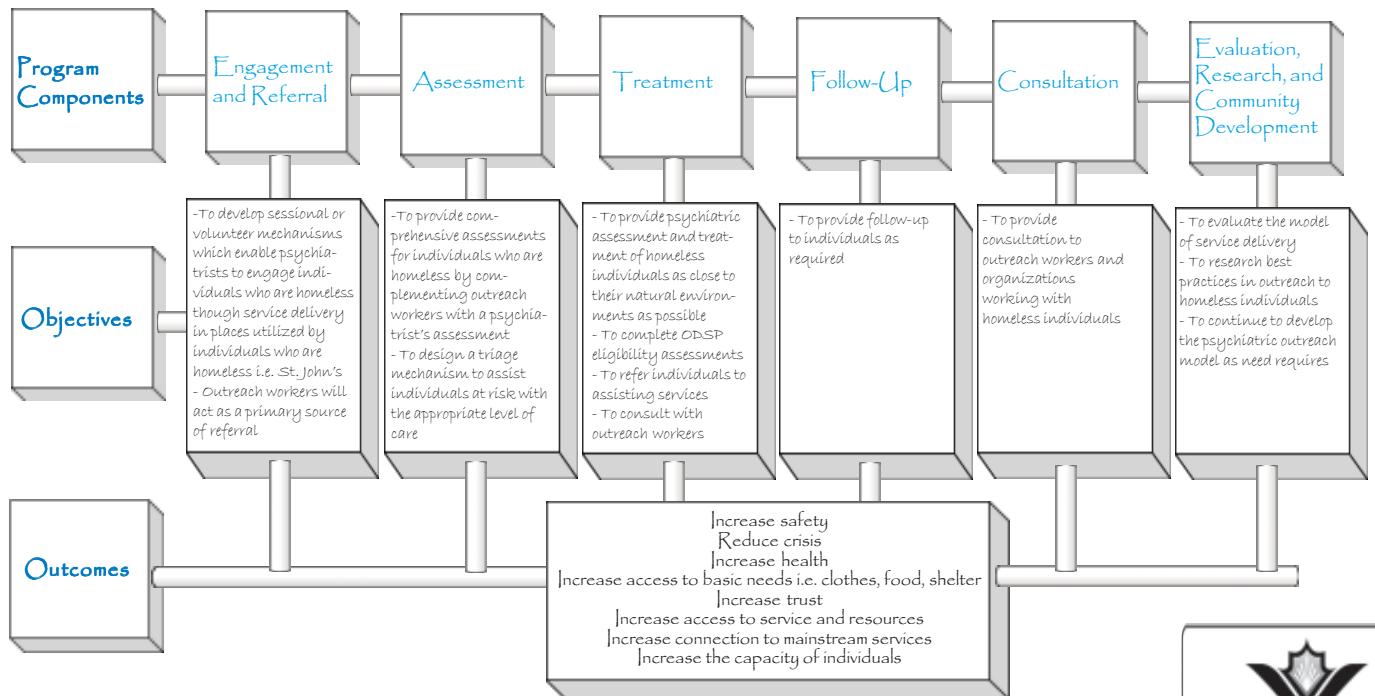
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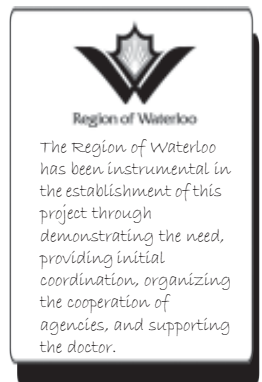
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Psychiatric Outreach Logic Model



"We try to give people the sense someone out there is willing to advocate for them. You develop a relationship with people living on the margin" - Gerard Keough



"He's doing a fine job. I find it very hard to relax... and worry is real high on my list. Without his help, I'd be even more lost" - Bernie Markele

"(Sometimes) I don't want anyone near me... and people know when to stay away. He (Abraham) helps me because I can talk to him." - Ellen Small

