

IMPACT  
REPORT

2016-17





DRIVING

RESULTS

ADVOCACY POLICY YOUTH ENGAGEMENT



THROUGHOUT 2017 CMHO HAS ADVANCED INFANT, CHILD AND YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH TO THE FRONT OF THE GOVERNMENT AGENDA. WE HAVE BEEN DRIVING RESULTS FOR OUR SECTOR THROUGH THE COOPERATION AND VOICES OF PARENT AND YOUTH ADVOCATES, CMHO MEMBER AGENCIES, AND STAFF TEAMS. TOGETHER WE HAVE BUILT MOMENTUM THAT WILL TAKE THE CHILD AND YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH AGENDA INTO THE 2018 PROVINCIAL ELECTION.

In March 2017, the federal and provincial governments came to an agreement on Health Accord Funding. CMHO succeeded in ensuring federal politicians publicly acknowledged that funds from the Accord should be directed towards infant, child and youth mental health. As a direct result of the work by CMHO with Health Minister Philpott's office, the Health Accord agreement specifies that reducing wait times for child and youth mental health treatment must be a priority.

Thanks to the work of CMHO and our members, child and youth mental health is gaining traction with MPPs across the province. During 2016-17, CMHO and its members met with more MPPs than ever before and our efforts are paying off! Since the Legislature resumed in fall 2017, child and youth mental health has been a top issue, being raised by both leaders of the two opposition parties and other MPPs from across the province.



Throughout 2017, CMHO has been reaching more audiences than ever before! By using social media as a tool for advocacy, we have had great success with Facebook Live events and nationally-trending Twitter Chats, #kidscantwait.

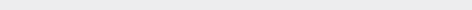
A group of five young women are gathered in a circle outdoors, high-fiving and smiling. They are wearing casual clothing, including hoodies and a patterned sweater. One woman is wearing a headband. The background shows a wooden building with large windows. The text "THE NEW MENTALITY" is overlaid in a large, red, stylized font at the top of the image.



A large, ornate, historic building with a central clock tower and two side towers, likely a university or government building. The building features a prominent central clock tower with a large clock face, flanked by two smaller towers. The architecture is highly detailed with many windows and decorative elements. The building is surrounded by greenery and a paved walkway leads to the entrance.

In May 2017, CMHO hosted a reception at Queens Park to garner support for infant, child and youth mental health as a top government priority. The event was a resounding success and brought together the Deputy Premier, along with 30 other MPPs including Ministers Coteau and Hunter, with parents, youth, and CMHO members.

CMHO believes it is crucial to work with partners across various sectors, to ensure that child and youth mental health is a top government priority. We are proud of our work with the following groups throughout 2017: the Ministry of Children and Youth Services Residential Service Reference Group, the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care's System Integration and Capacity Working Group, the Mental Health and Addictions Alliance, Primary Care and Mental Health and Addictions Task Group, the Coalition for Child and Youth Mental Health, Teachers Unions, Youth Wellness Hubs Ontario and the Ontario Centre of Excellence for Child and Youth Mental Health.

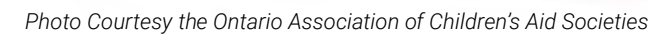


In 2016, the child and youth mental health sector, and several CMHO members, were audited by the Auditor General of Ontario. CMHO worked with our agencies to give a unified response to the audit, promoting the need for greater resources at children's mental health centres. Because of our work, the Ministry of Children and Youth Services has committed to working with CMHO to improve child and youth mental health care.

CMHO, and our member-based task group, has kept members up to date on the regulation of psychotherapy in Ontario through bulletins, resources, and a spring webinar. CMHO has worked to bring member concerns to key policy makers. From these efforts we received clarity from the College of Registered Psychotherapists of Ontario about their approach to regulatory enforcement. This means that we can move forward with a better understanding of how to proceed as the regulations come through.

*The Child Youth and Family Services Act (CYFSA) – CMHO made sure our members helped shape the new CYFSA. We brought member concerns forward to the Standing Committee on Justice Policy to raise children's mental health treatment as a priority. We are committed to continuing to raise the voice of our members as consultations continue.*

— We know this has been an important issue for our members, so we have worked to keep them apprised of changes, while continuing to advocate for increased investment in our sector. Notably, we've amplified our voice by creating new partnerships with groups like the Ontario Non-Profit Network, to align our advocacy messages and bring these funding issues to light.



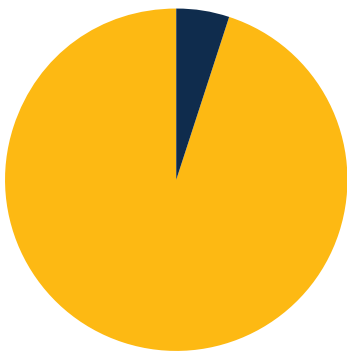
This year, TNM has increased the number of CMHO partners we work with and are now aligned with 20 centres! With a grant from the J.W. McConnell Family Foundation, we developed new and improved resources for our groups, built a private web portal for our adult allies, and launched a new Community of Practice for youth engagement practitioners.



released its *Waiting for Change* paper, focused on the issue of wait times. The committee delivered a powerful address to the conference delegates, and had a private meeting with Minister Coteau to share the findings and recommendations.

- Crisis Communications Support
- Policy and Legislation Updates
- Event listings
- Job Board
- In the News – Weekly News Clippings
- Fast Reports – Monthly Newsletter
- Group Benefits





CMHO IS PROUD TO REPRESENT  
95% OF THE TOTAL CYMH  
BUDGET FOR ONTARIO

“ No matter which way it goes, know that you have done an incredible job in elevating the needs of our sector to the bureaucrats and politicians who ultimately, carry responsibility for the services that we deliver.

A sincere thank you to the CMHO staff for your many efforts on our behalf.”

Barb Macdonald, Griffin Centre

“ Thanks for your team’s work in getting us the RPAC info and terrific work on the federal budget... it’s a lot of work. We couldn’t do this without you guys!”

Marg Campbell, Skylark

“ I totally agree with your conclusion that the Auditor report, while working at the tactical level, has not sufficiently addressed the core issue of funding. In fact, as they make all of their recommendations, many agencies will not have the capacity to address some of their recommendations.

Congratulations for being so fast off the mark to post on the web site the CMHO analysis and conclusion about funding. Let’s indeed make this the real story plus rising demand.”

Tony Diniz, Child Development Institute



CMHO.ORG

Children’s Mental Health Ontario (CMHO) works to identify and develop solutions to important policy issues affecting the child and youth mental health sector. We represent close to 100 accredited children’s mental health agencies that provide treatment and support to infants, children, youth and families. This includes targeted prevention, early intervention, short- and long-term counselling and therapy, and intensive services for those with complex and/or persistent mental health issues.