



## Communiqué

### Children and youth with complex mental health needs focus of new training program for frontline workers

(September 9, 2014) The Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA), Ontario is pleased to inform you about the launch of a special initiative: [\*Working with Children and Youth with Complex Mental Health Needs: An Integrated Training Project\*](#).

The project is funded by the Ministry of Children and Youth Services (MCYS), and is aligned with its *Moving on Mental Health* plan to strengthen the mental health system, delivering what children and youth need, when they need it, as close to home as possible. Through the *Moving on Mental Health* plan, the experience of children and youth with mental health issues and their families will be transformed by providing a set of core child and youth mental health services. More information about the core services can be found at the *Moving on Mental Health* [website](#).

*Working with Children and Youth with Complex Mental Health Needs: An Integrated Training Project* aims to help direct service providers enhance skills in key areas including: Targeted Prevention, Brief Services, Family/Caregiver Skills Building and Support, and supporting the capacity to practice within a health equity lens.

Who are children and youth and how are complex mental health needs defined by this project? [Learn more.](#)

#### **CMHA invites direct service providers to take advantage of upcoming free training offered through this project:**

- ✓ **[Training Inventory](#):** A live directory of existing training opportunities across Canada available to child and youth mental health professionals seeking to gain more knowledge or capacity in their work.
- ✓ **[9-Part Webinar Series](#):** Offered between October 2014 and February 2015, webinars will focus on systemic and social interactions that impact the mental health of children and youth. The webinars will cover topics such as the social determinants of health, child protection laws and the intersections between child and youth mental health and the criminal justice system.
- ✓ **[Online Course](#):** This self-paced e-learning course is targeted to direct service workers who provide counseling and social support in community-based settings to children and youth with complex mental health needs.
- ✓ **[4 Trauma-Informed Care Workshops](#):** These two-day, in-person training sessions focus on trauma-informed frameworks and strategies for working with children and youth with complex mental health issues. These workshops will take place in Thunder Bay, Ottawa, Toronto and London.

“The child and youth sector is well known for its commitment to improving the lives of Ontario’s children, youth and families, and its dedication to evidence-informed practice and efforts to build the resilience of young people and their families,” said Camille Quenneville, CEO, Canadian Mental Health Association, Ontario. “CMHA Ontario looks forward to helping advance these efforts within the sector and in your participation in the upcoming trainings.”



**Canadian Mental  
Health Association**  
Ontario  
*Mental health for all*

**Association canadienne  
pour la santé mentale**  
Ontario  
*La santé mentale pour tous*

For more information, including details of the trainings and dates, and how to participate, please visit [the project website](#), or contact:

**Renée Ferguson, M.S.W., PMP  
Project Manager**

Canadian Mental Health Association, Ontario  
180 Dundas Street West, Suite 2301  
Toronto, ON M5G 1Z8  
T: 416-977-5580 Ext. 4137  
[rferguson@ontario.cmha.ca](mailto:rferguson@ontario.cmha.ca)

**Meredith Kushnir  
Communications Consultant**

Canadian Mental Health Association,  
Ontario  
180 Dundas Street West, Suite 2301  
Toronto, ON M5G 1Z8  
T: 416-977-5580 Ext. 4120  
[mkushnir@ontario.cmha.ca](mailto:mkushnir@ontario.cmha.ca)

**About Canadian Mental Health Association, Ontario:**

*Founded in 1952, Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA), Ontario, is a non-profit, charitable organization committed to making mental health possible for all. CMHA Ontario works closely with its 31 local branches in communities across the province to ensure the quality delivery of services to approximately 50,000 individuals each year in the areas of mental illness, dual diagnosis and concurrent disorders. CMHA Ontario contributes knowledge, resources and skills to provincial policy development and implementation. We promote mental health in collaboration with others. We further equitable access to mental health services and champion the reduction of mental health disparities.*