

**Provincial Mental Health and Addictions  
Advisory Council**

**Annual Report**

**April 1, 2018 – March 31, 2019**

## MESSAGE FROM THE INTERIM CHAIR

In accordance with the **Transparency and Accountability Act**, I am pleased to present the 2018 - 2019 Annual Report for the Provincial Mental Health and Addictions Advisory Council (the Advisory Council). The Advisory Council is a Category Three (3) government entity under the **Transparency and Accountability Act** and plans and reports under these requirements.

As interim Chair, my signature below acknowledges the Provincial Mental Health and Addictions Advisory Council is accountable for the results reported.

This past year was a productive year for the Advisory Council as we provided oversight on the substantial completion of eight medium and long-term recommendations in year two of the **Towards Recovery Action Plan**. We also advised on the development of indicators; public and provider surveys; a stepped-care model, and other program materials that are transforming the mental health and addictions system in Newfoundland and Labrador. As an Advisory Council, we are honoured to play a key role in transforming the mental health and addictions system in this province.

I wish to extend a sincere thank you to all members of the Advisory Council for their continued dedication to mental health and addictions issues in the province. On behalf of the Advisory Council, I also want to extend our appreciation for the efforts of staff within the Department of Health and Community Services for their support in making our work possible.

Sincerely,



Lisa Browne, Interim Chair (Acting)  
Provincial Mental Health and Addictions Advisory Council

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## Overview

The Provincial Mental Health and Addictions Advisory Council (the Advisory Council) reports to the Minister of Health and Community Services. The Advisory Council advises on key mental health and addictions matters to formulate effective decision making and policy development; and provides oversight to the implementation of **Towards Recovery: The Mental Health and Addictions Action Plan for Newfoundland and Labrador**.

Further information about the Advisory Council is located on the Department of Health and Community Services website at:

[https://www.health.gov.nl.ca/health/mentalhealth\\_committee/mentalhealth/provincial\\_mental\\_health\\_and\\_addictions\\_advisory\\_council.html](https://www.health.gov.nl.ca/health/mentalhealth_committee/mentalhealth/provincial_mental_health_and_addictions_advisory_council.html)

## Mandate

The Advisory Council will:

1. Provide oversight for the implementation of the recommendations in **Towards Recovery** through a set of indicators that will measure process and outcome of the report's recommendations.
2. Specifically advise the Minister of Health and Community Services on matters related to:
  - the process and outcome of the recommendations of **Towards Recovery**;
  - enhancing mental health and addressing/ preventing mental illness and problematic substance use;
  - public awareness, education and anti-stigma efforts; and
  - emerging priorities requiring immediate attention.

## Membership

The Advisory Council is an 18-member group representing diversity in backgrounds, skills and experiences (see Appendix A for membership list). The membership of the Advisory Council, including the chairperson, are appointed by the Minister of Health and Community Services. Council appointment recommendations are made by the Public Service Commission using a merit-based process in accordance with section 25(a) of the Public Service Commission Act.

The Advisory Council bring diverse backgrounds, knowledge and experience in the area of mental health and addictions. They include:

- Personal lived experience/family experience
- Regional Health Authorities
- Psychiatry and family medicine
- Education
- Health promotion and prevention
- Community organizations
- Memorial University of Newfoundland/College of the North Atlantic
- Business community
- Justice system (police/legal aid/corrections/private bar)

- National organizations
- Indigenous people

**Member terms:** The terms of reference state that a member shall be appointed for a term of three years and may be re-appointed to one further term of three years for a maximum of six years. Where the term of office expires and a successor has not been appointed, the member may continue to hold their position until a successor is appointed.

### **Funding**

The work of the Advisory Council is supported by the Mental Health and Addictions Division, Department of Health and Community Services. Remuneration is not provided.

### **Meeting Frequency**

Meetings are scheduled every two months or as required. Meetings are held in St. John's and teleconference is available for Advisory Council members who live outside the St. John's region.

In 2018-19, the Advisory Council met four times: May 2018, October 2018, January 2019 and March 2019.

The Advisory Council does not maintain a separate office; support and secretariat services are provided by the Mental Health and Addictions Division, First Floor, West Block, Confederation Building, St. John's.

### **Highlights and Partnerships**

The Advisory Council acknowledges our strong partnership with the Department of Health and Community Services in fulfilling our mandate. Our diverse membership also reflects the many community partnerships that support the work of the Advisory Council.

The highlights of 2018-19 include:

- Provided oversight on the implementation of eight **Towards Recovery** recommendations (medium and long term);
- Informed on the development of indicators; public and provider surveys; a stepped-care model and a Flexible Assertive Community Treatment (FACT) manual for health service providers.

## Report on Performance: Objectives 2017 - 2020

The Provincial Mental Health and Addictions Advisory Council provides support to the Minister of Health and Community Services in an advisory capacity. As such, the following objective will guide the direction of the Advisory Council for the period April 1, 2017 to March 31, 2020 and will be reported on in each year covered by the plan (2017-18, 2018-19 and 2019-20).

### Issue - Provide oversight for the implementation of recommendations in Towards Recovery

The Advisory Council is embedded into the **Towards Recovery** governance structure ensuring an opportunity to provide meaningful oversight into the implementation of the recommendations.

Several Advisory Council members also serve as members on **Towards Recovery** project teams and/or working groups.

### Annual Objective

By March 31, 2019, the Provincial Mental Health and Addictions Advisory Council will have provided advice and oversight to the Minister of Health and Community Services regarding implementation of the Mental Health and Addictions Action Plan.

Indicator	Outcome
Obtained expert and group member expertise	During 2018-19, the Advisory Council provided expertise during regularly scheduled, bi-monthly meetings and by email or teleconference, outside of regularly scheduled meetings. The Advisory Council continued to utilize the combined expertise of its members by reviewing and providing feedback on <b>Towards Recovery</b> documents, and other emerging priorities. The Advisory Council informed the development of indicators and public and provider surveys that will be used to measure progress of recommendations under the <b>Towards Recovery Action Plan</b> . The Advisory Council also provided oversight on the implementation of several <b>Towards Recovery</b> recommendations.
Invited community groups and other organizations to present information	During 2018-19, the Advisory Council continued to focus on the implementation of <b>Towards Recovery</b> recommendations. Presentations informed the Advisory Council's oversight of the recommendations. Presentations included an update on the <b>Towards Recovery</b> evaluation framework by the Newfoundland and Labrador Centre for Health Information and of housing coordination work by End Homelessness St. John's. The Advisory Council was kept informed of the work of the Recovery Council through regular updates by its Chair. In December 2018, the Advisory Council participated in a face-to-face meeting with <b>Towards Recovery</b> project teams, which include over 200 people and families with lived experience, policy makers, community groups, regional health authorities, Newfoundland and Labrador Centre for Health Information, and government.
Prioritized advice provided to the Minister	Advisory Council feedback and advice was provided to the Minister on many areas related to mental health and addictions. Priority topics

	included: health in corrections; opioid dependence treatment; stepped care; promotion, prevention and early intervention; improved access; the recovery approach; integrated service delivery; and quality and measuring progress.
Made recommendations to government-led mental health and addictions initiatives	Advisory Council gave oversight to all aspects of <b>Towards Recovery</b> via bi-monthly meetings.

### Objective and Indicators for the 2019-20 Year

The Advisory Council’s work in 2019-20 will support the same objective and indicators outlined for 2018-19. For additional information, please consult the Advisory Council’s activity plan located on the Department of Health and Community Services website at:

[www.health.gov.nl.ca/health/publications](http://www.health.gov.nl.ca/health/publications)

### Opportunities and Challenges Ahead

The Advisory Council recognizes opportunities and challenges as we move into 2019-20.

The Advisory Council’s current interim chairperson and council members have expired. New membership appointments will be in place for 2019-20.

Advisory Council members will continue to provide guidance and oversight to the **Towards Recovery Action Plan** to ensure that the mental health and addictions system meets the needs of the population. We look forward to playing a key role in this challenging and transformative work.

An important aspect of our work in 2019-20 will be to collaborate with the Recovery Council in planning and co-hosting the annual Recovery Forum - an event that is well attended by a variety of health care stakeholders, including those with lived experience.

We look forward to an exciting year ahead in continuing to advise on the implementation of several **Towards Recovery** recommendations. We will continue to provide guidance on the development of person-centered, community-based mental health and addictions programs as they are rolled out across the province. Together with multiple partners, and with leadership from the Department of Health and Community Services, we will work towards a renewed mental health and addictions system in the province.

## Appendix A: Provincial Mental Health and Addictions Advisory Membership 2018-2019

<b>Name</b>	<b>Current Experience</b>
<b>Lisa Browne</b>	Interim Chair (Acting), Community Service Provider
<b>Sheldon Pollett</b>	Interim Chair, Community Service Provider - Youth
<b>Angela Crockwell</b>	Community Service Provider - Youth
<b>Angie Wilmott</b>	Schools Guidance Counsellor/Psychologist
<b>Dave Banko</b>	Community Service Provider
<b>Des Coombs</b>	Psychologist
<b>Dr. Greg Radu</b>	Psychiatrist, Eastern Health
<b>Dr. Peter Cornish</b>	Researcher
<b>Dr. Ted Callanan</b>	Professor, Psychiatrist, Eastern Health
<b>George Skinner</b>	Social worker, Community Advocate
<b>Mark Gruchy</b>	Lived Experience, Community Coalition
<b>Mary Walsh</b>	Actor/ Social Activist
<b>Michelle Kinney</b>	Nunatsiavut Government; Northern Region
<b>Patrick Hickey</b>	Youth Advocate
<b>Paula Jacobs</b>	Lived Experience, Community Service Provider
<b>Peter Ralph</b>	Lived Experience
<b>Rita Notarandrea</b>	National Organization, Canadian Centre on Substance Use and Addiction
<b>Thelma Whelan</b>	Education Consultant; Western Region



**Provincial Mental Health and Addictions Advisory Council**

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