An Individual's Journey: Mental Health and Addiction in Provincial Corrections

HSJCC 2023 Virtual Conference

Presenters:

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Division: Health Services

Date: Wednesday, November 15, 2023

Time: 11:00AM to 12:00PM



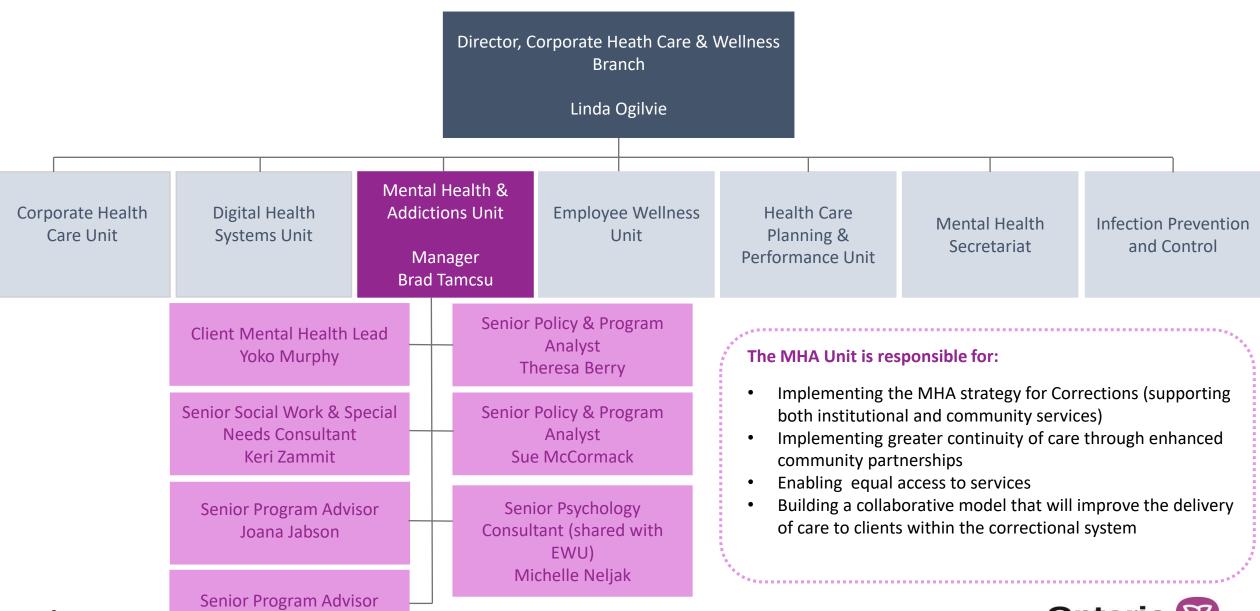
Overview

This presentation will cover the following:

- 1. Overview of the Health Services Division Mental Health and Addictions Unit
- 2. Context: Snapshot of Ontario Corrections
- Corrections Mental Health & Addictions Strategy for individuals in Custody and under Community Supervision in Ontario
- 4. An Individual's Journey in Ontario Corrections with Mental Health and Addiction needs: from Admissions, Screening, Assessment, Treatment and Re-integration
- 5. Future considerations to address Mental Health and Addictions in Corrections
- 6. Questions & Contact Information



Health Services Division - Mental Health & Addictions Unit





Eric Sabiti

Context: Ontario Corrections



Over 80% of those in Ontario Correctional institutions are on remand (those who have not completed the trial and sentencing process).



In 2021 the median number of days spent in custody on remand was 21 days. The median provincial sentence in Ontario in 2021 was 24 days



There are various estimates on the prevalence of mental illness in the corrections system.



Individuals in custody have higher rates of developmental disabilities, including Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) and Acquired Brain Injury (ABI).



Snapshot Offender Tracking Information System (OTIS) data indicates that over 20% of individuals in Ontario correctional institutions have a verified mental health alert and 48% have a substance use alert.



In 2020/21, the Indigenous incarceration rate in Ontario was 6.3 times higher than non-Indigenous incarceration rate. Indigenous women's incarceration rate is 12.5 times higher compared to non-Indigenous women.



Women in custody experience **higher rates** of traumatic histories and violence, self-harming behavior, HCV, mental illness, and substance use disorder.



Within the first six days after release from a correctional institution, these individuals are hospitalized at a psychiatric facility **58 times** more than the general population, and **12 times** more at one to three months after release.



Corrections Mental Health & Addictions Strategy

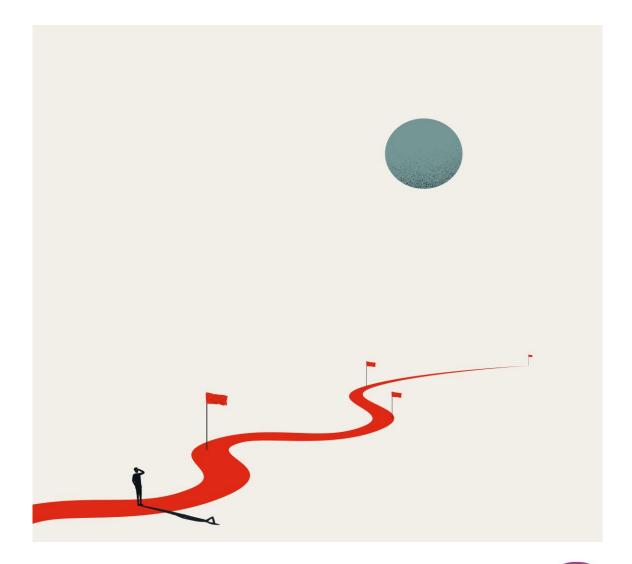
Short-Term Outcomes

- Data Collection: Improved mental health & addictions data utilization to influence evidence-based decision making and accountability (i.e. Acute Care Stabilization Continuum of Care Data Collection Survey, Mental Health Alerts, Institutional Snapshot – Sentenced vs. Remand)
- Interprofessional Teams: Established mental health and addictions inter-professional teams (i.e. Hiring of 57 Addiction Counsellors across the province)
- **Communication:** Improved communication to facilitate the provision of high-quality mental health and addiction services (i.e. Community of Practice Meetings, Check-ins with Ministry and Hospital Partners)
- Care Pathways: Established mental health and addictions care pathways (i.e. CAMH-Forensic Early Integration Service STAIR Model deployed at Toronto South Detention Centre and Vanier Centre for Women, Inmate Care Plan training)
- **Health Equity:** Improved access to care that is trauma informed, gender safe and culturally safe (i.e. Trauma Informed Working Groups, Priority on improving the Mental Health of Women in custody)



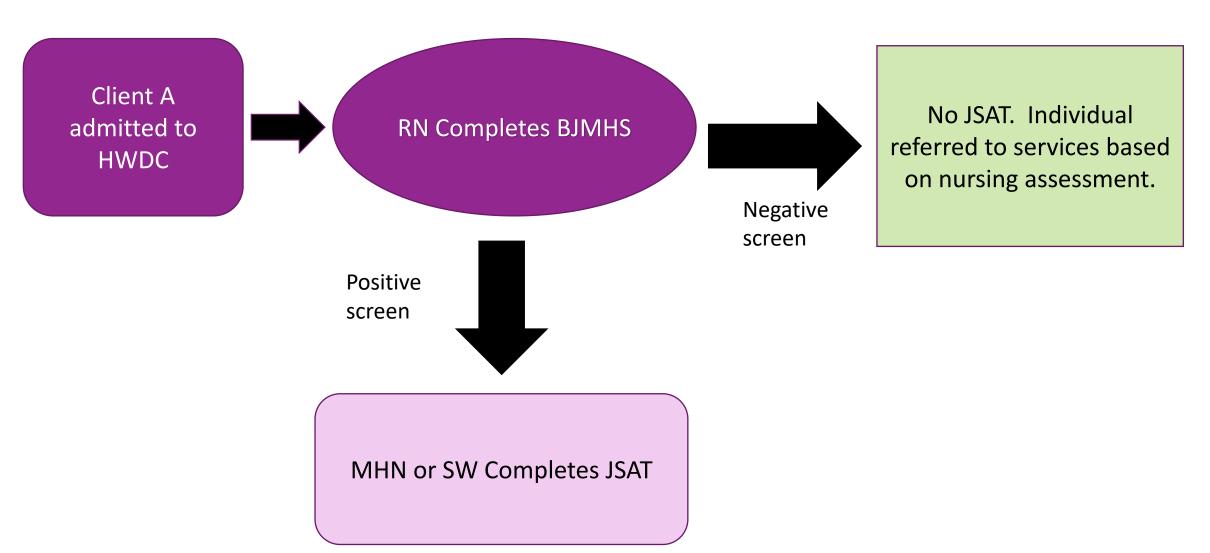
An Individual's Journey in Ontario Corrections

- Client A is a 25 year old individual admitted to Hamilton Wentworth Detention Centre, on a remand warrant for Assault with a Weapon. This is Client A's first time in custody and has no previous criminal justice history.
- While in Admittance and Discharge (A&D), Client A was observed to be responding to auditory hallucinations. When staff approached the cell, Client A became verbally agitated and hostile towards staff.
- Client A was punching the door and walls when staff were observing them. Their hand was bleeding heavily and requires medical attention.
- Staff note that Client A seems to be religiously preoccupied and has written scripture on the walls of the cell.





Admissions and Mental Health Screening





Brief Jail Mental Health Screen

Name (Last, First Middle)	OTIS	Institution	Date of Birth
Patient A	1001234567	HWDC	NoV/16/1998

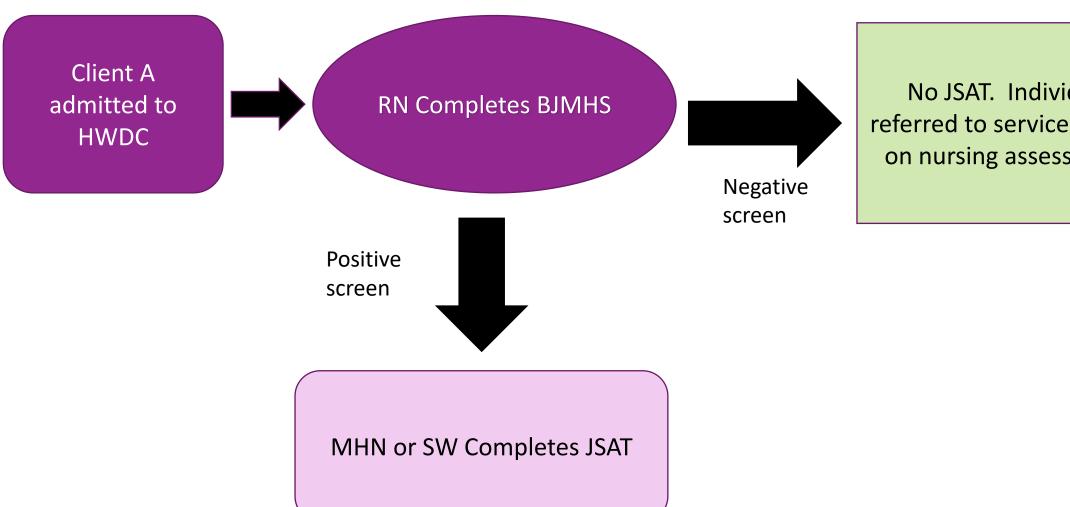
Que	stions	No	Yes	General Comments
1.	Do you <i>currently</i> believe that someone can control your mind by putting thoughts into your head or taking thoughts out of your head?			-appears to be responding to auditory hallucinations
1.	Do you <i>currently</i> feel that other people know your thoughts and can read your mind			-having difficulty engaging
1.	Have you <i>currently</i> lost or gained as much as two pounds a week for several weeks without even trying?			-unable to answer
1.	Have your or your family or friends noticed that you are currently much more active than you usually are?			-no response
1.	Do you <i>currently</i> feel like you have to talk or move more slowly than you usually do?			-no response
1.	Have there <i>currently</i> been a few weeks when you felt like you were useless or sinful?			-no response
1.	Are you <i>currently</i> taking any medication prescribed to you by a physician for any emotional or mental health problems?			-no response
1.	Have you <u>ever</u> been in a hospital for emotional or mental health problems?			-no response



Con	Comments/Impressions (check all that apply)			
	Language barrier		Under the influence of drugs/alcohol Non-cooperative	
X	Difficulty understanding questions	☑ Other, specify: appears to be responding to auditory hallucinations		
Refe	erral Instructions: This inmate should	be re	ferred for further mental health evaluation if they answered:	
•	YES to item 7; or YES to item 8; or YES to at least 2 of items 1 through If you feel it is necessary for any oth		ason	
	Not Referred			
×	Referred on NOV / 15	/ =	to Mental Health team for JSAT	
Pers	son completing screen RN ABC			
Date	NOV / 15 / 2	2023	Time 10:15	



BJMHS and **JSAT** Referral Pathway



No JSAT. Individual referred to services based on nursing assessment.



JAIL SCREENII	NG ASSESSMENT TO	OL (JSAT) – CODING FORM	
		Client A	
Institution: HWDC		1001234567	
		Nov. 16 1998	
ADMISSION DATE:	1 5 1 1 2 0 2 3 Day Month Year	SCREENING DATE: (If different from admission) 1 6 1 1 2 0 2 3 Day Month Year	
IDENTIFYING INFORMATION	ETHNIC/CULTURAL BACKGROUND:		
AGE: _25 years ENGLISH: Fluent □ Yes ○ No ○ Moderate ○ Poor ○ None First language:		☐ South Asian (e.g., Indian, Pakistani, Sri Lankan) ☐ West Asian (e.g., Afghan, Iranian) ☐ Arab Asian (e.g., Cambodian, aotian, Vietnamese) ☐ Other:	
LEGAL SITUATION	CURRENT CHARGE(S): (Check all relevant)	PREVIOUSLY INCARCERATED: ☐ Yes × No	
CURRENT STATUS: ➤ Remanded □ Sentenced (length) □ Transferred □ Immigration Hold Country of Origin:	 ★ Offence against persons □ Offence against property □ Drug offence □ Sexual offence □ Driving offence □ Breach/Parole violation/Escape ○ Comments: 	☐ In past year ☐ In past 6 months ☐ In past month Note any problems: PREVIOUSLY SENTENCED: ☐ Yes × No Longest sentence:	
VIOLENCE ISSUES	× Yes O No		
Past aggression/violence: X Yes O N Describe:	lo Violent incidents while incarcerated: ☐ Ye	es ○ No Time since any aggression/violence:n/a (months/years ago)	
Past violent offences: ☐ Yes X No Type:	Institutional charges: ☐ Yes X No Describe:	Current anger/aggression: ★ Yes ○ No	



MENTAL HEALTH TREATMENT	□ Yes × No			
Past Month Lifetime □ □	Past Month Lifetime			
Assessment Assessment – Court Ordered	Treatment – Correctional Treatment – Community Treatment – Inpatient Treatment – Court Ordered Psychiatric Medications Type:	□ > 6 months □ > 6 months □ > 6 months		
PAST HEAD INJURY: Yes	to in intervious			
Describe: unknown, p	je in interview			
SUICIDE/SELF- HARM ISSUES	Yes O No			
Number of past attempts:	WHILE INCARCERATED: Past attempt while incarcerated: ☐ Yes ○ No	SELF-HARM ISSUES: ☐ Yes ○ No Describe:		
Time since last attempt:	Number of past attempts:	CURRENT LEVEL OF SUICIDALITY: ☐ None stated ☐ Ideation / No intent		
(months/years ago) METHOD: ☐ Shooting Hanging/Asphyxiation ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐		□ Some intent / Contracted / Referred □ Suicide concerns / Suicide watch recommended / Referred □ Intent / Suicide watch recommended / Referred		
☐ Jumping ☐ Carbon (months/years ago) monoxide METHOD:				
□ Slashing □ Motor □ Overdose □ Hanging/Asphyxiation □ Overdose □ Other □ Slashing □ Other				



MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS	SUICIDE/SELF-HARM RIS VIOLENCE RISK: VICTIMIZATION RISK:	K:□ Not Evident × Concerns□ Not Evident □ Concerns□ Not Evident □ Concerns	s □ High Risk
	VIOTIMIZATION RIGH.	L Not Evident L Concerns	S LI High Risk
☐ Possible recurrent psychotic symptoms ☐ Regular unit / Single-bunking × Referred / Assess for medication			 ☐ Monitor / Reassess mental status ☐ Evaluate for counseling / Provide support × Referred / Assess for medication ☐ Drug and alcohol assessment/counseling ☐ Other
COMMENTS/CLARIFICATION	Note: Relevant information m	nust be documented in the CL	INICAL NOTES section of the Health Care File.
Client A presented with symptoms of active psychosis and appeared to be responding to auditory hallucinations throughout the interview. Staff report that Client A was punching the doors and walls of the cell while in A&D. Given Client A's current mental state, it was recommended to Sergeant that they be housed on the stabilization unit, with extra staffing support. Client A referred to Psychiatrist and Mental Health Team to discuss possible referral to ACS bed. Signature: Social Works			



What are Acute Care/Stabilization (AC/S) Beds?

AC/S beds are a collaborative Mental Health Initiative between SolGen and the Ministry
of Health (MOH) that provide short-term* inpatient psychiatric care in a secure,
forensic mental health setting** to acutely ill, incarcerated individuals whose
symptoms are too complex for general hospitals.

• Eligible individuals *must* meet the following four criteria:

- 1. Present with a severe and persistent mental illness with significant impairment
- 2. Require more intensive treatment than is available at the correctional facility/detention centre
- 3. Be capable of making treatment decisions and consenting to receive treatment (Note: there are further criteria and steps involved if the person is deemed incapable to provide consent)
- 4. Be "formable" under the provisions of the *Mental Health Act, 1990* (placed on a Form 1)



^{*} up to 90 days

^{**} Designated hospitals under Part XX.1 Mental Disorder Under The Criminal Code (Canada)

Acute Care Stabilization Beds – Client Pathway

Referral



Admission



Discharge

- Staff at HWDC flag Client A
 as a new referral at the joint
 clinical meeting.
- Coordinator completes the admission form, collaborating with both St. Joe's and HWDC staff.
- Coordinator secures the transfer date/time and communicates details with HWDC Mental Health Nurses.
- Coordinator informs all relevant staff (HWDC Physicians, Managers, Team Lead) about the details of the transfer.
- Client A is transferred from HWDC to St. Joe's ACS bed via SolGen vehicle.

- HWDC staff will provide verbal report to Coordinator with any significant clinical changes regarding Client A.
- ACS Bed treatment team review admission form and completes St. Joe's admission documentation.

- Client A has been deemed appropriate for discharge by the St. Joe's Treatment team.
- Coordinator confirms the transfer date with HWDC Mental Health Nurses.
- ACS Bed treatment team completes discharge summary and required documentation.
- Client A is transferred from St. Joe's ACS bed to HWDC



Inter-disciplinary Care Planning

Interprofessional Team

A team comprised of different professions and occupations that work collaboratively to provide and develop strategies to support individualized care.

A team may be comprised of mental health providers, clinical staff, correctional officers, program staff such as a classification officer, rehabilitative officer, etc., Native Inmate Liaison Officer (NILO), Elder, and any other relevant staff.







Inmate Care Plan

A Care Plan guides the inter-professional team to strategize and manage inmates to meet their individual goals and needs. It provides information for front-line staff on how to best care and support the inmate. For additional information on completing

Date Care Plan was Initiated: (Mmm-dd-yyyy) NOV-16-2023

care plans, see the Inmate Care Plan - C	Buidance Document.				
Inmate Information					
Name (Preferred Name if appropriate) (SURNAME, First, Middle): CLIENT, A	OTIS# 1001 2345 67	Gender Identity: Male			
Language Services Required: Yes No If yes, specify language:		Discharge Possible Date: (Mmm-dd-yyyy) Unknown/remand			
Staff Member Initiating the Care Plan: (Pr Social Worker A	int Name/Designation):				
	Reason for Inmate Care Plan				
Required: X Serious Mental Illness x SMI Alert in OTIS? X Managed Clinical Care Placement □Stabilization Placement □As directed by Deputy Regional Director			As recommended by the Interprofessional Team: Uverified Mental Health Alert(s) Usegregation Conditions Usedregation Care Placement Usupportive Care Placement X Other: Managed Clinical Care Unit		
Mental Health and Human Rights Checklist Select checkbox to indicate.					
χ Ontario Human Rights Code (Code) co If yes, specify: Indigenous	onsiderations required?	Yes N	No		
⊠ Review of OTIS alerts completed? History of suicide watch? Mental health?			No No		
			No Not required		
☑Followed by Mental Health Clinician in IS or community? Specify: Psychiatrist					
χ Community Reintegration Checklist completed?			No		



Inmate Care Plan

Mental Health and Human Rights Checklist					
		Select checkbox to	o indicate.		
⊠Ontario Human Rights Code If yes, specify: Indigenous	(Code) co	nsiderations require	ed?	Yes⊠	No□
⊠ Review of OTIS alerts completed? History of suicide Mental health?			watch?	Yes □ Yes □	No ⊠ No ⊠
⊠Jail Screening Assessment [*]		Yes⊠ Not requ			
⊠Followed by Mental Health 0	Clinician in I	IS or community?	Specify: Psychia	trist	
⊠Community Reintegration Cl	hecklist con	npleted?		Yes⊠	No□
-		upports and Comr ticipants involved in	-		
Operations	Programn	ning	Clinical		Community
□ Addictions Counsellor □Correctional Officer □ Operational Manager (mandatory) □ D. Superintendent □ Superintendent □ Other:	⊠Rehabil		Social Work SW Manager Nurse / MH N Health Care Manager Physician / N Psychometris Psychiatrist Other:	urse	□ Institutional Liaison Officer □ Community Reintegration Officer □ Probation Officer □ Release from custody worker □ Community Agency □ Other



Inmate Care Plan









Inmate Care and Management Information				
No confidential information should be recorded on this form (e.g., medication name, diagnosis, etc.).				
	For more information consult the Inmate Care Plan - Guidance Document.			
Recommended institutional housing or specialized care placements (provide rationale)	Given Client A's current mental state, it was recommended to Sergeant that they be housed on the Managed Clinical Care - stabilization unit, with extra staffing support. Client A was punching doors and walls of cells in A&D and appeared to be responding to auditory hallucinations.			
Human Rights Code related needs and accommodations, if applicable	Individual identifies as Indigenous			
Behaviours, observations or symptoms to anticipate if there are mental health concerns	Appeared to be responding to auditory hallucinations. Staff observed Client A writing religious scripture on the walls of cell in A&D.			
Risk Management (e.g., safety and security to others, self-harm, etc.)	This is Client A's first time in custody, no known history of safety/security/self-harm risks. While in A&D, Client A threatened staff when they approached the cell to provide medical attention as he was punching the door and walls of the cell.			
Recommended De-escalation Techniques, if required (e.g., quiet room, etc.)	Client A responded better when 1:1 instead of multiple staff trying to engage him. Important to explain slowly and articulate clearly what actions the staff is going to take prior to taking them. (Before opening the cell door, before opening the meal hatch etc.).			
Recommended Programming (e.g., art, library, cards, AA, Core programming etc.)	Will ask what individual is interested in – will offer supplies to write/draw if interested. Social Worker will ask if they need time with supports – phone call to family. Recreation officer for independent yard time. NILO for smudge and other programming.			
Community Agency Involvement (past / present)	NILO will continue to engage for reintegration support SW seeking supportive services in community for release - referral has been made for Release from Custody Worker.			
Medication Management (e.g., consistency, side effects, non-compliance with medication, etc.	Follows medical treatment plan			
Food/Nutrition (e.g., allergies, diet, lifestyle, religion, etc.)	No allergies noted on file			
Equipment Needs (e.g., assistive device, etc.)	Does not require assistive devices			











Discharge Planning and Community Reintegration

- □ Shelter/Housing
- ☐ Income/Financial Supports
- Employment Supports
- Education/Literacy/Training
- □ Identification
- Basic Needs Food/Clothing
- ☐ Health Needs/Medication
- □ Treatment/Harm Reduction Agencies
- □ Probation and Parole
- ☐ Indigenous Specific Supports





Future Considerations to Address MHA in Corrections



Approaches to traumainformed care



Expanding mindfulness programming for incarcerated individuals



Ongoing engagement with Community Services in Corrections focusing on Community Reintegration



Enhanced suicide training and other learning opportunities for correctional staff



Continued collaboration with stakeholders and community partners on shared priorities



Questions/Comments?

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