

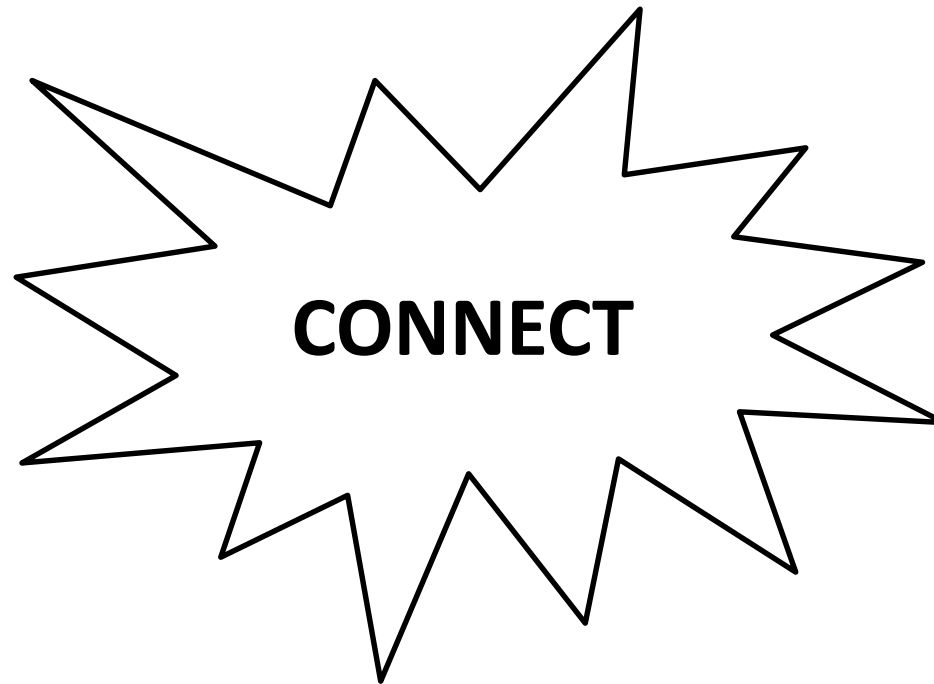


**Connection. Collaboration. Care.**

Ashley Hough, MSW, RSW



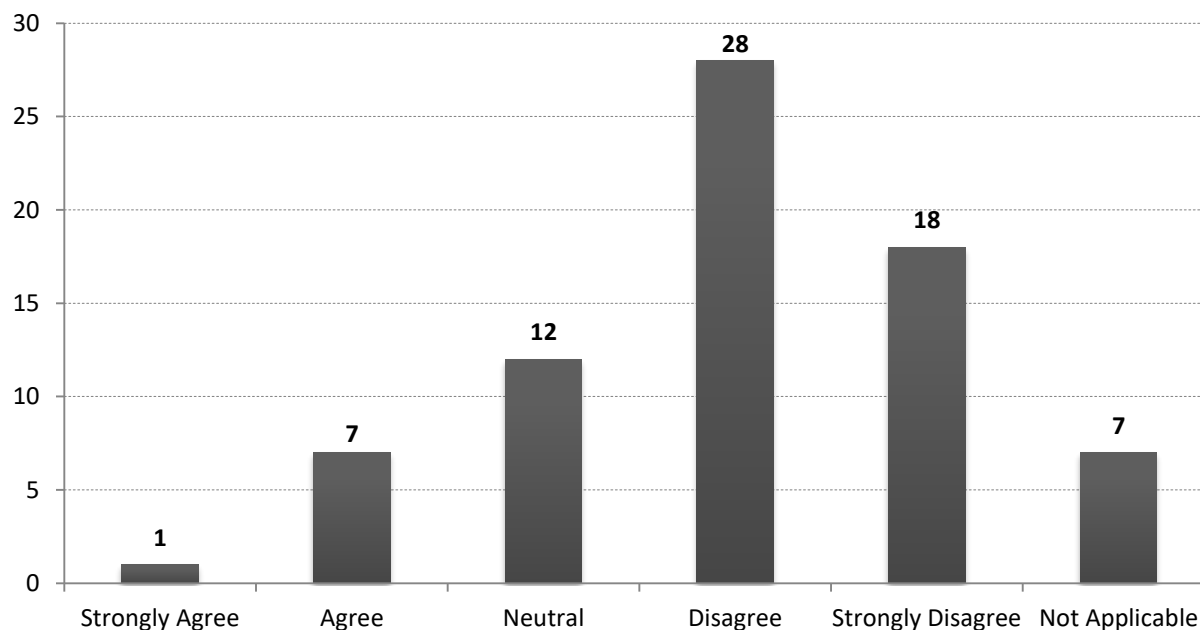
# Why ?



MADE WITH  
PATIENT & FAMILY  
INVOLVEMENT

St. Joseph's  
Healthcare  Hamilton

The referral process was easy, hassle free and timely.



“There are too many forms and confusion over which program to refer to and what forms are required. A centralized process would be most welcome with administrative triage to determine which clinic is most suitable.”



“It would be great to have a SHORT centralized referral form to use to make referrals instead of having a separate multi-page form for every sub-specialty mental health clinic...It is time consuming, inefficient, and leads to errors and delays in patient's being seen in a timely fashion.”



“My impression and that of many of my colleagues, is that the main focus of your program seems to be in spending all of your efforts in devising ways and reasons to avoid actually seeing patients.

When patients are referred, there are a multitude of excuses why they cannot be seen. One program suggests sending them to another program and that program suggests sending them to the first program!”



# What is Connect?

- A service that completes the intake functions for incoming ambulatory referrals (~ 1500 referrals/month)
  - registration
  - referral review/intake screen
  - collateral collection
  - triage/disposition
  - scheduling 1<sup>st</sup> appointment
- Process to respond to urgent referrals
- Process to respond to intake calls (Live Answer)
- Process to respond to family calls

**LOCATION:**  
Level 1 near Seniors  
Inpatient Unit



## Clinics We Connect With

- Anxiety Treatment and Research Clinic
- Women's Health Concerns Clinic
- Senior's Mental Health Clinic (Hamilton & Brant)
- Eating Disorders Clinic
- Mood Disorders Clinic
- Youth Wellness Centre
- Concurrent Disorders Clinic
- General Psychiatry Clinic
- Rapid Consultation Clinic
- Borderline Personality Disorder Services
- Cleghorn Early Intervention Clinic
- Schizophrenia Outpatient Clinic
- East Region Mental Health Service
- TMS Clinic
- ECT Clinic
- Bridge to Recovery
- Dual Diagnosis Clinic





## REFERRAL FLOW



Internal Referrals can be made to CONNECT by placing an order in Dovetale

- Ensure patient's primary care physician is aware of referral

DO NOT utilize CONNECT for:

- MHAP inpatient referral to outpatient clinic
- MHAP outpatient clinic to another outpatient clinic ("redirect")

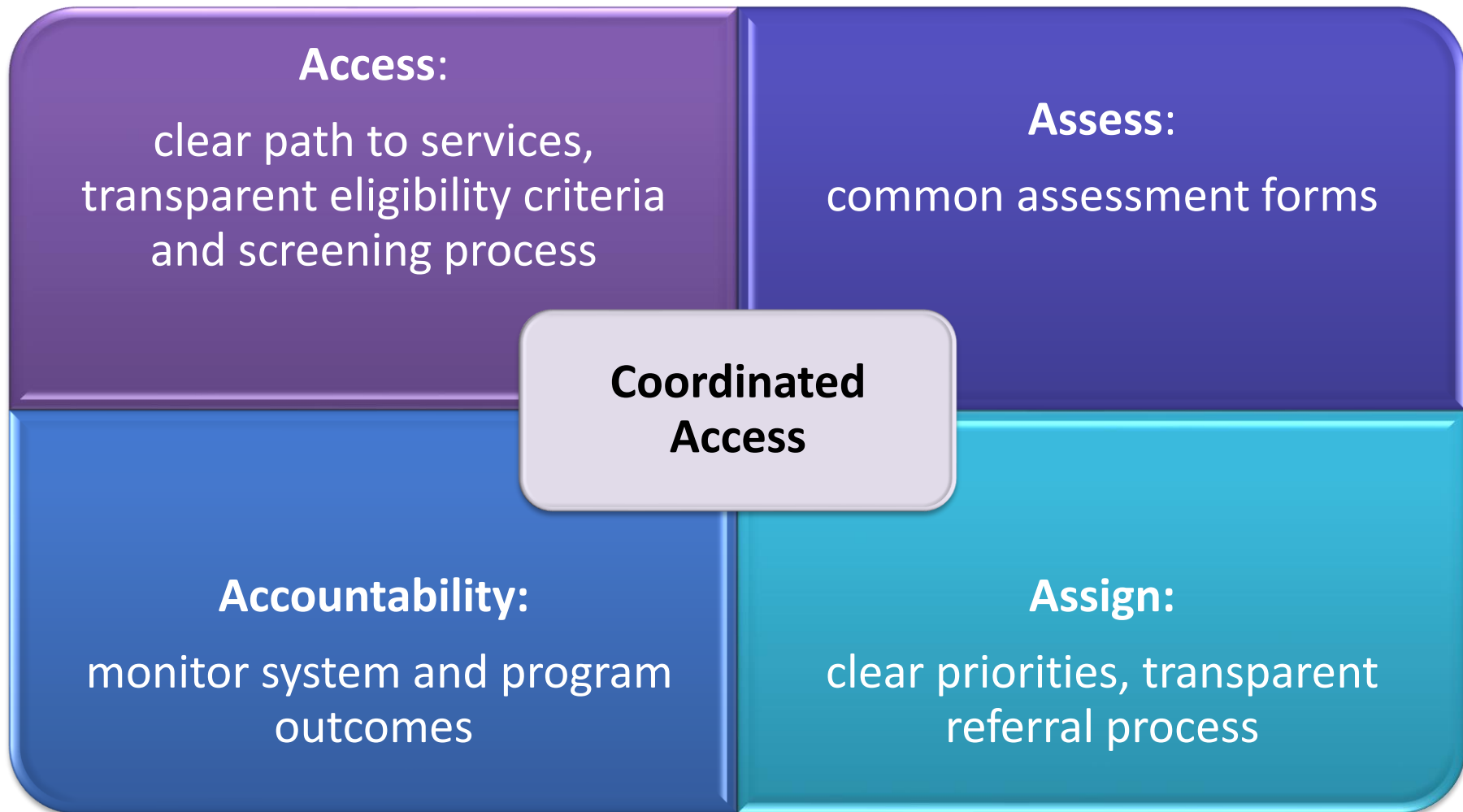
## Respect, Recovery, Resilience: Recommendations for Ontario's Mental Health and Addictions Strategy (2010):

Develop and implement common assessment and intake, referral and resource matching tools (p.42).

## Navigating the Journey to Wellness: The Comprehensive Mental Health and Addictions Action Plan for Ontarians (2010):

“Clients and their families should have access to system navigators who will connect them with the appropriate treatment and community support services (e.g., housing, income support, employment, peer support, and recreational opportunities)” (p.7).

The four guiding principles of coordinated access (4 A's):



## Intended Outcomes:

Right patient,  
right place,  
right time

Improve  
referral  
quality

Facilitate  
more effective  
screening

Triage  
referrals

Reduce wait  
times

Facilitate  
continuity of  
care

Gustafson (2011):

Crucial Elements	Connect
Immediate/timely help	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Triaged first contact</li> <li>• Self-initiation of referral with support to connect with GP</li> </ul>
Minimal variation in the quality of assessment, treatment, and continuing care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Standardized screening tool completed by trained regulated healthcare professionals</li> </ul>
Emerging and existing technologies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shared electronic clinical chart</li> <li>• Flexible use of technology to contact patients (ex. Text, email)</li> </ul>
Connect, support and engage patients, families, peers, and providers <b><u>before</u></b> , during, and after treatment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify individual barriers and develop a plan to facilitate access to service</li> <li>• Engage in MI to increase personal motivation</li> </ul>

## Success of centralized intake:

Depends On	Connect
Ongoing collaboration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Patient/family advisory group</li> <li>• Weekly triage table</li> <li>• Quarterly review</li> </ul>
Flexibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Change in response to feedback</li> </ul>
Adequate resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 7 intake assistants</li> <li>• 5 intake clinicians</li> </ul>

(Rush & Saini, 2016)

EXCELLENT CARE, EVERY TIME.



Provide a patient-centered,  
personalized experience



Assist patients in navigating the  
system with limited barriers



Collaborate with patients/families  
and community partners



Leave no one without support  
and/or information



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## Next Steps:

1. Reporting dashboard
2. Community education
3. Patient flow (cross clinic triage table)
4. Unannounced arrivals
5. Family doctor partnerships



# QUESTIONS ??

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