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**MEMORANDUM TO:**

Hospital Chief Executive Officers  
All Chiefs of Police and Commissioner OPP  
Chairs, Police Services Boards  
Chiefs, Paramedic Services

**FROM:**

Hon. Sylvia Jones  
Solicitor General  
Hon. Christine Elliott  
Deputy Premier and Minister of Health and Long-Term Care

**SUBJECT: POLICE-HOSPITAL TRANSITIONS FRAMEWORK**

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We are pleased to share with all hospitals and police services in Ontario the newly released *Improving Police-Hospital Transitions: A Framework for Ontario* as well as the supporting toolkit, *Tools for Developing Police-Hospital Transition Protocols in Ontario*.

The Ministry of the Solicitor General and the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care recognize the need for guidance and support in implementing local transition protocols between police services and hospitals, and have been pleased to work in partnership with the Provincial Human Services and Justice Coordinating Committee (PHSJCC) and the Canadian Mental Health Association, Ontario, in the development of this framework. Both ministries support its consideration for use in emergency departments across the province.

The purpose of the framework is to assist police services and hospitals with developing joint emergency department transition protocols, which are responsive to unique local needs, in order to ensure the seamless transfer of care for persons in a mental health or addictions crisis brought to a hospital by police officers. The key objectives of the framework are to:

- Improve health outcomes for individuals apprehended by police under the *Mental Health Act*;

- Improve transition of clients between police officers and hospital workers; and
- Improve coordination and collaboration among partners involved in the transition.

The framework was developed through a collaborative process, working with a range of policing and health care partners, including the Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police and the Ontario Hospital Association. This process has allowed for the development of a framework which is adaptable to operational realities and considerations, such as staff safety, while ensuring flexibility for application to a range of local circumstances. Moreover, the framework reflects evidence and successful practices in various communities across Ontario.

Both the Ministry of the Solicitor General and the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care endorse and recommend that all Ontario police services and hospitals consider using the Framework and establish a written local emergency department transition protocol for individuals who are brought to the hospital emergency department by police officers under the *Mental Health Act*.

The framework is also supported by a toolkit that police services and hospitals may use and adapt to reflect their local circumstances.

As partners in ensuring community safety and well-being in Ontario's communities, we thank you in advance for working together on this important initiative.

If you have any questions about the Framework, please contact Joseph Szamuhel, Project Manager, PHSJCC Secretariat by phone at 1-800-875-6213 ext. 4127, or by email at [jszamuhel@ontario.cmha.ca](mailto:jszamuhel@ontario.cmha.ca).

Sincerely,



Sylvia Jones  
Solicitor General



Christine Elliott  
Deputy Premier and Minister of Health and Long-Term Care

#### Attachments

- c: Chief Executive Officers, Local Health Integration Networks  
Mr. Mario Di Tommaso, Deputy Solicitor General, Community Safety  
Ms. Helen Angus, Deputy Minister, MOHLTC  
Ms. Melanie Fraser, Associate Deputy Minister, Health Services, MOHLTC  
Mr. Stephen Beckett, Assistant Deputy Minister, Public Safety Division, Solicitor General  
Mr. Phil Graham, Acting Assistant Deputy Minister, Community, Mental Health and Addictions and French Language Services Division, MOHLTC