

LOFT

A Dignified Life for Everyone

Supportive Housing Within the Addiction Circle of Care

The Partnership Between Toronto Drug Treatment Court & LOFT Community Services



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A Dignified Life for Everyone

HSJCC Conference 2019

Colouring Outside the Lines: Innovations & Creative Community Responses

Presented By: Tony Gordinho & Cylene Rainville



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A Dignified Life for Everyone

Drug Treatment Courts (DTC)

Canadian drug treatment courts began as a response to large numbers of offenders being incarcerated for drug-related offences and continuing to re-offend due to underlying drug dependency.

DTC & Therapeutic Jurisprudence

The meeting of the law and treatment

- A **conceptual analytic framework** which aims to bring together criminal law and treatment in order to bring about therapeutic outcomes for the accused and in turn society
- It is a **Problem Solving Approach to delivering justice** which seeks to promote positive behavioural change in program participants
- **Non-adversarial** or **modified adversarial** approach to reaching common objectives

Drug Treatment Courts con't

In December 1998, the first drug treatment court was established in **Toronto**. It brought together treatment services for substance abuse and the criminal justice system to deal more effectively with the drug addicted offenders. The **Vancouver** Drug Treatment Court subsequently opened in December 2001; followed by the **Edmonton** Drug Treatment and Community Restoration Court (December 2005); the **Winnipeg** Drug Treatment Court (January 2005); the **Ottawa** Drug Treatment Court (March 2006); and the **Regina** Drug Treatment Court (October 2006).

The **Drug Treatment Court Funding Program (DTCFP)** was established in 2004 and is part of the Treatment Action Plan of National Anti Drug Strategy. The recipients of federal funding were selected through a call for proposals.

– Department of Justice, Canada

Toronto Drug Treatment Court



The Toronto Drug Treatment Court program is based out of Old City Hall, on Queen Street West in court room 116. A clinical team from the Centre of Addiction & Mental Health (CAMH) provides mental health and addiction support to the participants of the program, in addition to group support and social opportunities.

Toronto Drug Treatment Court con't

- Since 1998 the TDTC has been committed to providing alternatives to incarceration for Torontonians who face criminal charges related to drug addictions. This voluntary program is a joint partnership between a number of constituencies:
 - CAMH - Centre for Addiction and Mental Health
 - Ontario Court of Justice
 - Federal Dept. of Justice
 - Legal Aid Ontario
 - Ministry of the Attorney General
 - Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services
 - Public Prosecution Service of Canada
 - Other community agencies

Toronto Drug Treatment Court con't

Funding

- Funding for the Toronto Drug Treatment Court Program is provided by:
- The Ontario Ministry of the Attorney General: *provides partial funding for core program*
- The Toronto Central LHIN and Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care: *provides housing program funding*
- Private donations (through the CAMH Foundation, Corporate Volunteer Program and Gifts of Light and fundraising efforts): *provides for special events, client comfort items and program incentives*

Toronto Drug Treatment Court con't

Who can participate

- Participation is available to adults who have an addiction (to one or more of: cocaine/crack, opiates, methamphetamines) who are facing non-violent charges which are connected in some way to their addiction/means of obtaining drugs. The type of crimes accepted are: non-commercial trafficking, minor property charges, possession, etc.

Toronto Drug Treatment Court con't

Turning lives around

- The TDTC helps people with addictions to substances make positive changes using a multi-tiered community based approach:
- Supervised harm reduction treatment
- Abstinence support
- Group and individual counselling
- Securing shelter and housing
- Opiate replacement therapy
- Case Management
- Upon graduation participants do not go to prison; participants will typically receive non-custodial/probation sentences and leave with renewed hope for a drug free life.

LOFT Community Services

LOFT steps up to serve those most in need by offering them the safety and stability of **housing** and the practical **support** they need to regain their dignity and take control of their lives.

Our programs proudly welcome youth, adults and seniors of all gender identities and sexual orientations. We currently serve some 4,600 individuals a year and because of our proactive approach, that number continues to grow. We are one of the largest mental health service providers in Ontario and unique in the diversity of our services. We are also the largest supportive housing provider in York Region/South Simcoe and we operate York Region's only homeless street outreach van.





LEAD THE WAY

GOAL 1

LOFT will boldly lead the way in the creation of system-wide solutions that deliver more coordinated care and services for those with complex needs.

OUR STRATEGIES

- 1.1 Influencing Positive Change Within the System to Achieve Better Outcomes for People We Serve and their Caregivers
- 1.2 Partnering with People We Serve and their Caregivers to Support and Empower Their Recovery Journey
- 1.3 Working with Others to Transform Care for People We Serve
- 1.4 Galvanizing Donors, Partners and LOFT Stakeholders to Fund Innovations that Make People's Lives Better

VISION

Together, we can all live successfully in our community.

MISSION

To help people achieve their optimal health and well-being in the community, LOFT offers unwavering support and hope. We serve people living with complex mental health, addictions, cognitive and physical health challenges, offering a range of services and housing delivered in the community. Through innovation, investment, expertise and collaboration we respond to the changing needs of our diverse community.

VALUES

Accountability, excellence, proactivity, leadership, adaptability, respect and inclusiveness.

CARE PASSIONATELY

GOAL 2

LOFT will care passionately and meet the changing needs of people we serve through a relentless focus on innovating care and putting them at the center of everything we do.

OUR STRATEGIES

- 2.1 Helping People with Complex Needs Thrive by Advancing Focused Services and Expertise.
- 2.2 Giving People we serve a Safe Place to Live by Increasing Supportive Housing Capacity.
- 2.3 Championing Equity by Ensuring Access for All
- 2.4 Evolve Constantly to Deliver High Quality, Sustainable and Efficient Services.

BE OUR BEST

GOAL 3

LOFT will be our best by setting the highest standards for practice, quality and performance that meet or exceed expectations.

OUR STRATEGIES

- 3.1 Enhancing the Voice of People We Serve and their Caregivers into Program Design, Delivery and Evaluation
- 3.2 Enabling and Encouraging the Growth and Development of Our Staff
- 3.3 Revolutionizing How We Work Through Our Uncompromising Focus on Quality, Safety and Performance
- 3.4 Improving the Quality of Decisions by Harnessing Information and Technologies

LOFT Community Services con't

- LOFT Community Services promotes recovery and independence for people with complex challenges including serious mental health challenges, dementia, substance abuse issues, physical health challenges and homelessness or the risk of becoming homeless.



LOFT

VISION

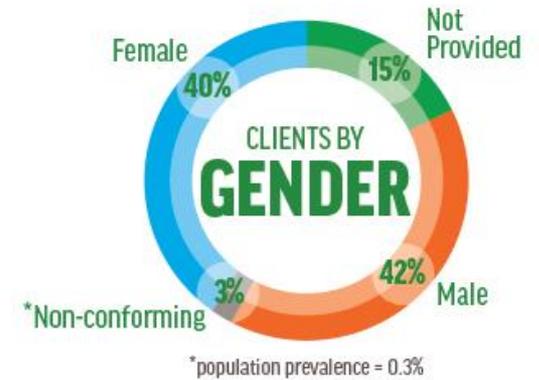
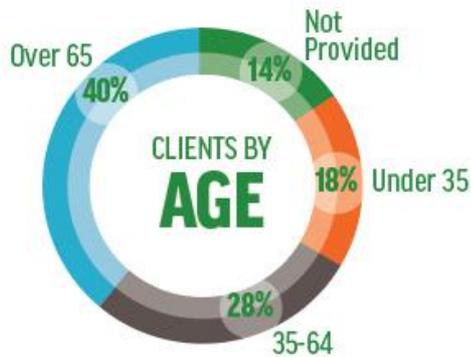
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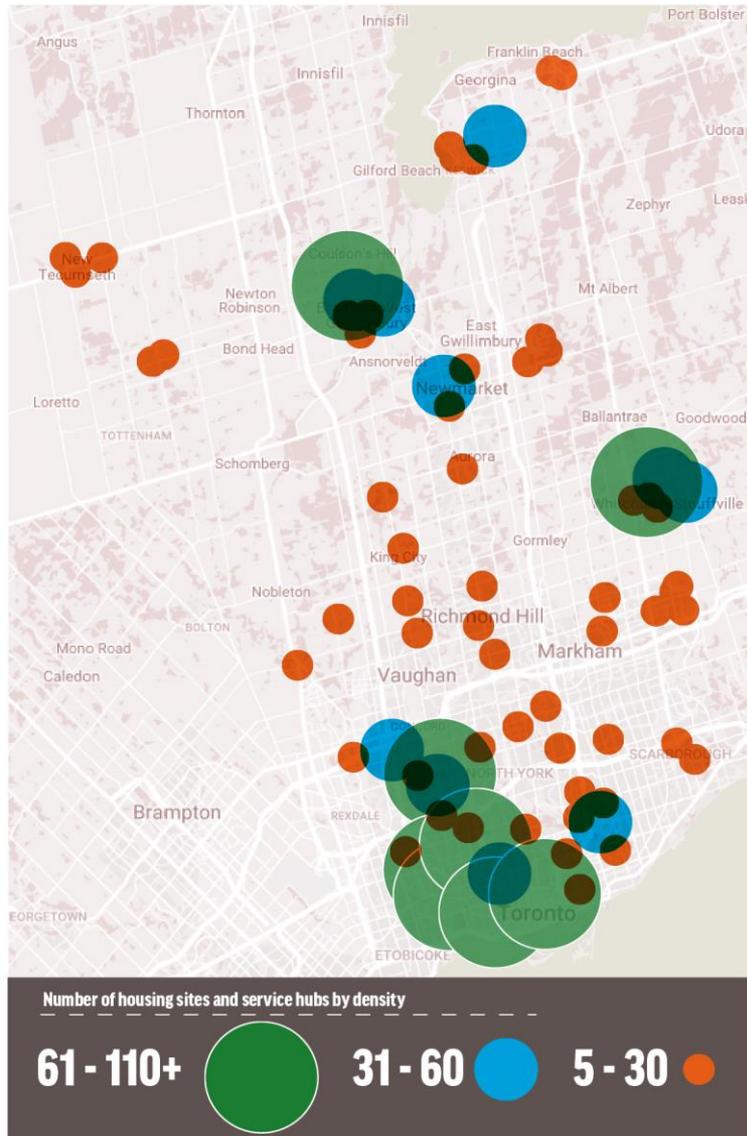
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Supportive and Supported Housing

- Low, medium and high support units
- Assisted living, personal care
- Owned, sub-leased, leased and in public housing



Support Services to Municipalities

- Supported housing, case management and street outreach services to the City of Toronto, York Region and Simcoe County



Centralized Access Services

- Co-lead of two major Centralized Mental Health and Addictions access projects.
- 55 Partner agencies and 200 referring agencies.



Case management and Community Support Service

- System navigation
- Assistance with daily activities
- Crisis Management



Specialized Services for People with Complex Challenges

- 24 hour supports
- Excellence in hospital to community transitions
- Psychogeriatric services including crisis supports
- Expertise regarding: Emerging adults, HIV/AIDS and justice
- Behavioural Support Services



- We have been doing this work since 1953, reaching out to serve those who often fall through the cracks. When people have nowhere else to turn, LOFT is there for them. LOFT takes a proactive approach to addressing community challenges, responding to the evolving needs of the day with innovative programming that seeks to empower our clients to be able to take back control of their lives.

LOFT – Mental Health & Justice Initiative

LOFT's Mental Health & Justice

Initiative (MHJI) provides safe and dignified supportive housing for men and women, aged 16 to 64, who have a serious mental health issue, are homeless or at risk of becoming so, are currently involved in the criminal justice system, and who can live safely and independently in the community with minimal assistance.



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A Dignified Life for Everyone

LOFT – MHJI con't

- Clients face complex challenges in addition to mental health concerns. These include involvement with the Ontario Review Board (ORB), comorbid physical health issues, few employment opportunities, a lack of social and life skills. Substance abuse is an issue for many clients and often remains a challenge as clients work towards their recovery goals and safe integration into the community.

LOFT – MHJI con't

- The goal of MHJ is to assist members to become more independent and reduce both their criminal involvement and the number of times they are hospitalized. The program has a very strong psycho-social rehabilitation philosophy, the principle tenets of which are that clients have the right to control their own lives, set their own goals, participate in their own recovery, and live with dignity and maximum independence.

MHJI Support/Supportive Housing

- MHJ Community Support Workers provide intensive case management services in response to the needs of each individual client. These services include supportive counselling, advocacy, information and referrals to other services, assistance in acquiring life skills and coping with daily living and crisis prevention and intervention. Workers meet with their clients between one and three times a week to assist them with their needs and help them maintain their housing.



MHJI – Supportive Housing con't

- The MHJI team also consists of:
- Personal Support Workers
- a Peer Support Worker
- Property Services
- Overnight Workers
- Housing Workers
- Volunteer Residents



In the Fall of 2017, LOFT Community Services – MHJI and the Toronto/CAMH Drug Treatment Court formed a partnership to provide supportive, transitional housing to participants.

LOFT – MHJI Partnerships

- CAMH
- Alternate Level of Care - Forensic Services

- Toronto North Support Services – Mental Health & Justice Case Management

• **LOFT-MHJI**

- Fred Victor/PanAm Supportive Housing

- Toronto Drug Treatment Court - CAMH

LOFT Staffing & Housing Model

- The current LOFT staffing model for the Drug Treatment Court program is one consistent staff (CSW with Peer experience). Personal experience along with educational and professional endeavours, allow Tony to access a unique understanding of addiction and share his insight into early recovery and the challenges therein.
- CSW staff hours are flexible so that community support can complement court attendance and DTC treatment. Staff also participate in group recreational activities with clients
- Support is SMART goal focused and goals are formed in partnership with the client and the DTC/CAMH team if appropriate.
- Clients have the ability to complete Community Service Hours onsite at LOFT

LOFT Staffing & Housing Model

- LOFT utilizes a model similar to the “Housing First” approach, where housing is provided in an efficient manner, and flexible supports are wrapped around client need
- At this time, LOFT has 4 two bedroom apartments, located within walking distance to our high support site. The high support site is staffed 24/7, 365 days a year and has telephone and computer access for all clients



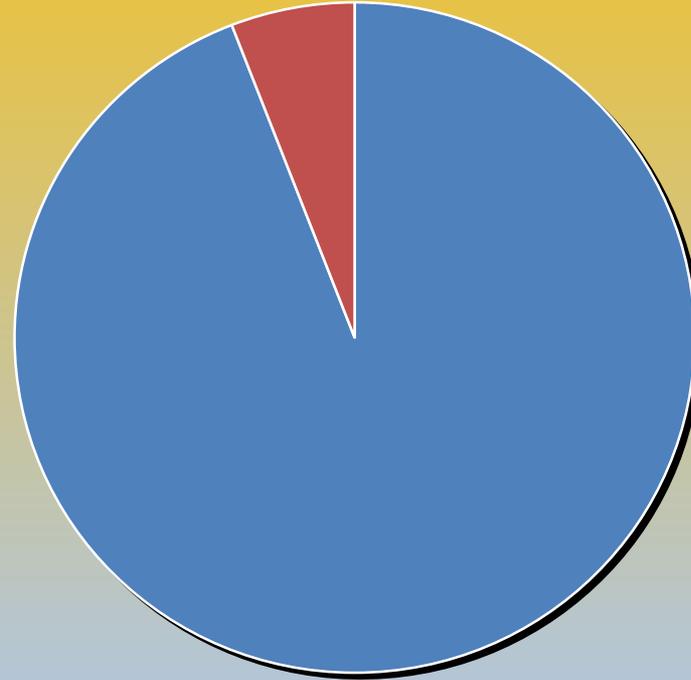


The transitional housing agreement is for a period of 364 days, but can be renewed if needed. Clients are expected to continue their participation with Toronto Drug Treatment Court, and meet regularly with their LOFT Community Services Support Worker

Support is flexible, goal focused and based on psychosocial rehabilitation principles. Participants can access a meal plan, outings, social recreational groups, and a recovery group. Participants interact with the LOFT community as a whole, and can do so as much or as little as they like.

MHJI – DTC Program Statistics

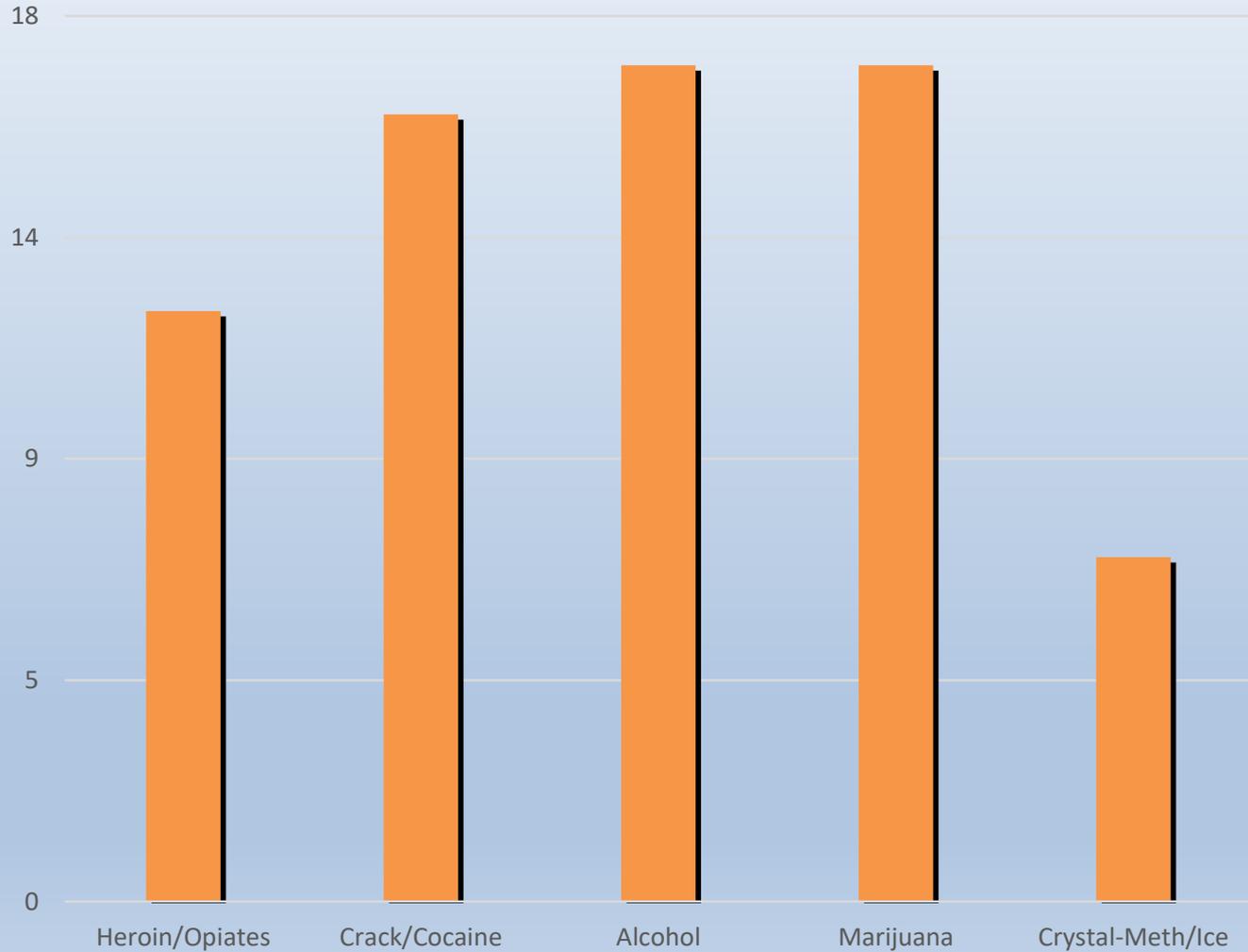
Clients by Identified Gender



■ Male

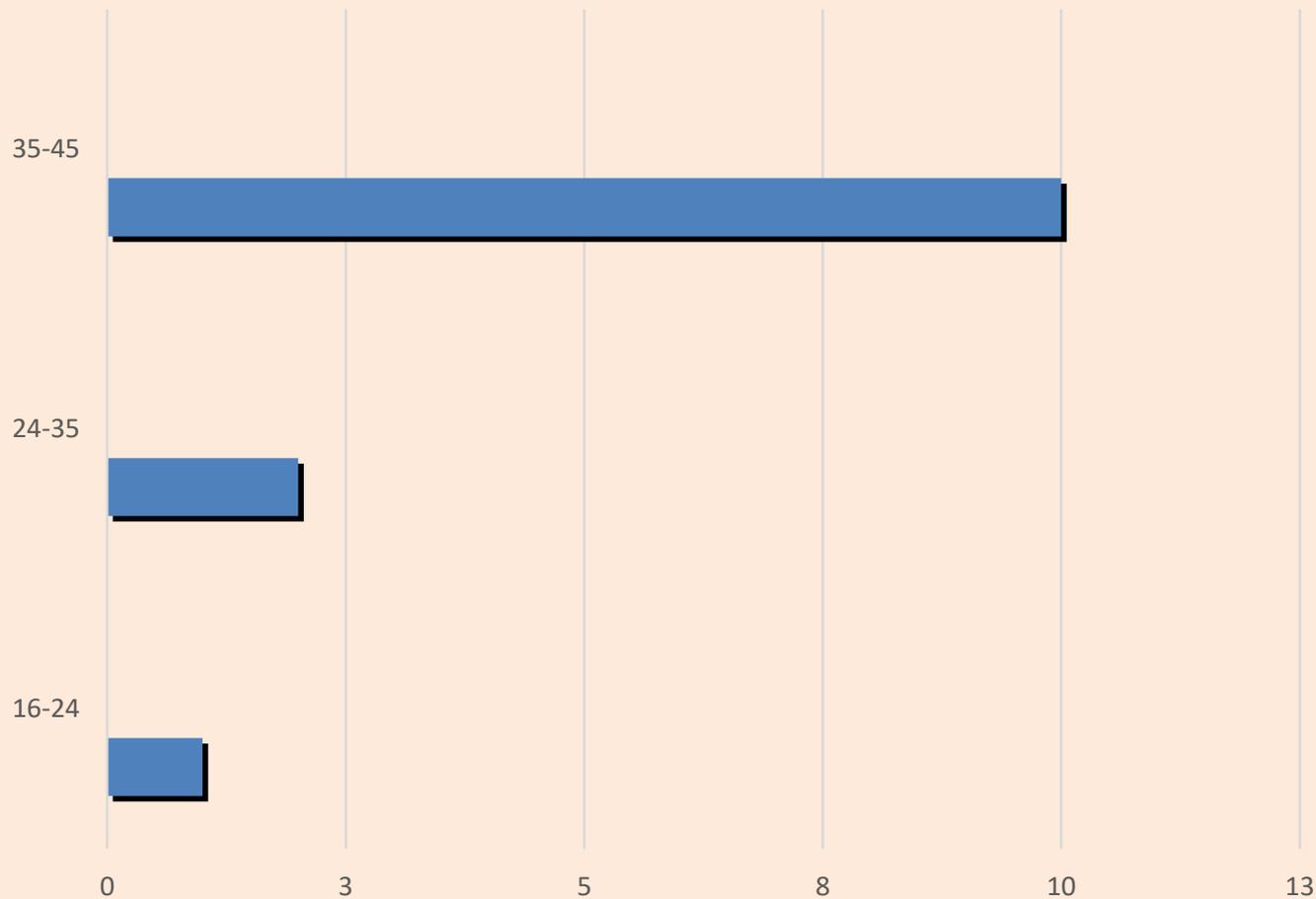
■ Female

Use by Substance



Client Age

Chart Title



Length of Client Stay



■ 0-3 Months

■ 6-9 Months

■ 3-6 Months

■ 9-12 Months

Successes

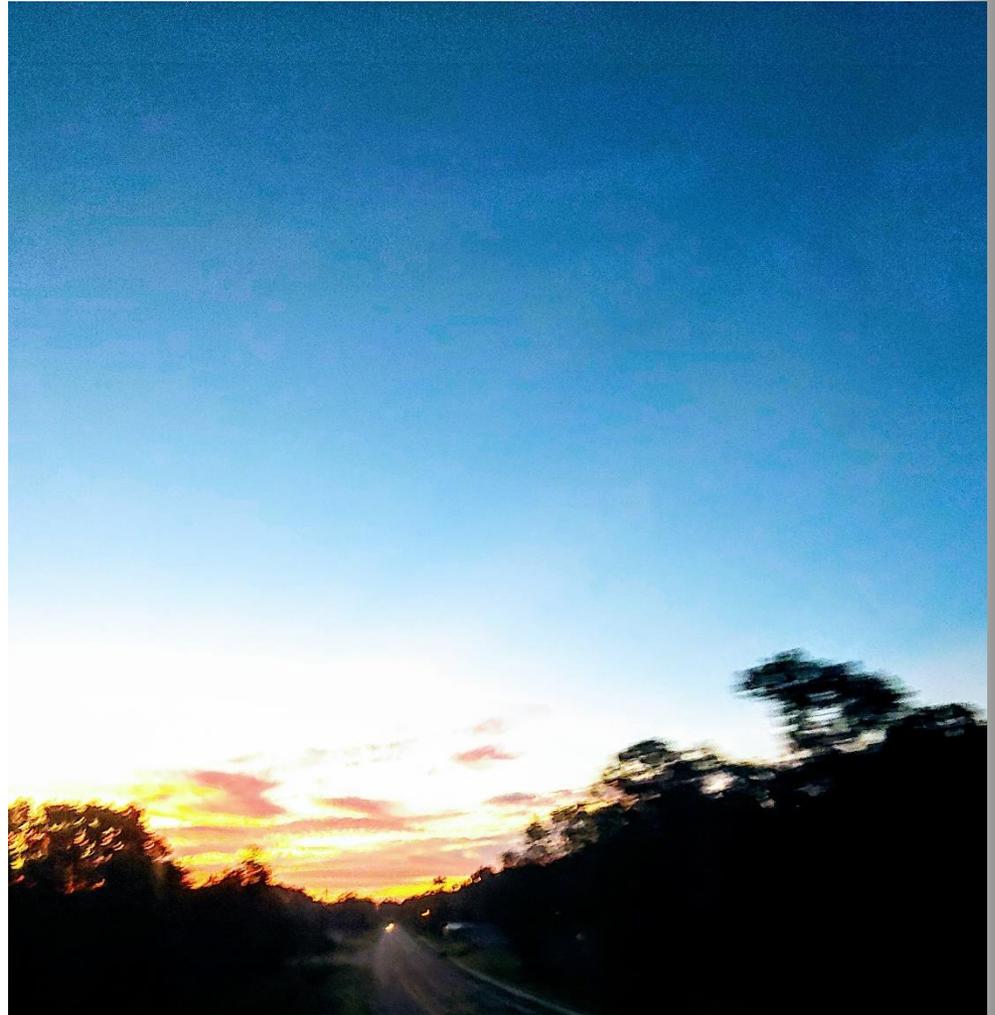
- Shared housing – but with only one roommate
- Close proximity to high support site
- LOFT team is aware of the DTC clients
- DTC clients ability to participate in MHJI programming
- Skilled Staff trained in Mental Health First Aid, ASIST, Addictions, Crisis Intervention, Managing Aggressive Behaviours, TransCare and Ethical Boundaries; lived experience
- LOFT CSW Staff having the ability to embed into the Toronto Drug Treatment Court Program
- Support provided from a PSR model
- Rent geared to income (shelter portion of OW/ODSP)

Obstacles

- Difficulty in obtaining appropriate market rent housing
- NIMBYism
- Instability of client group due to incarceration and homelessness; as well as mental health issues
- The “system” forcing change vs. client being ready for change
- Stigma

What's Next?

- Continue to work in partnership with the clients and the DTC/CAMH teams
- Continue to evolve as per client needs
- Engage in continual evaluation of the program with our stakeholders
- Further develop the sense of community and belonging
- Do our best



Drug Treatment Court promotes and builds on honesty

The time I spent with LOFT was extremely helpful for me because I was able to lock a door behind me and put my head on a pillow. While there, I attended treatment, engaged with work and connected with family. It was very helpful to have staff available when I needed it. The peer experienced staff made it easier for me to feel heard and understood.

James Joudry - Past DTC Participant

Drug Treatment Court promotes and builds on honesty

I've been at LOFT for four months now and it's been great. It's safe and it's the launching pad for my recovery. I know I wouldn't be where I am now if I didn't connect with LOFT housing when I did. It's hard to make changes, but with LOFT housing I feel more confident that I can; it's hard to see hope when you're homeless.

Jason M. - Current DTC Participant

Drug Treatment Court promotes and builds on honesty

I've been at LOFT for two months now, and I really appreciate having a safe place that I can call home. It really helps me in helping myself by connecting me with safety, security and a positive community.

David Roberts - Current DTC Participant

Drug Treatment Court promotes and builds on honesty

About a year ago, Cylene and Tony came to detox to see me and I signed my transitional rental agreement while there. Since then life has changed a lot and it's so much better today. Having housing with LOFT has allowed me to land and grow in recovery. I'm employed and close to graduating the DTC program...LOFT's been a huge part of my success!!!

Kerry Slaney - Current DTC Participant

Contact Us

Tony Gordinho, CSW – LOFT Mental Health & Justice Initiative
tgordinho@loftcs.org

Cylene Rainville, Director – LOFT Mental Health & Justice Initiative
crainville@loftcs.org



www.loftcs.org

www.tdtd.ca

<https://www.attorneygeneral.jus.gov.on.ca/english/justice-ont/>

<https://camh.ca>

<https://amho.ca/>

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Thank you!
Questions? Comments?