

All Party Committee on Mental Health, Substance Use, and Addictions Meeting Minutes

Date: May 14, 2024

Time: 3:30 p.m. – 4:15 p.m.

Attendees:

Committee Members: Tom Osborne, Sherry Gambin-Walsh, Paul Pike, Joedy Wall, Jim McKenna, Lela Evans

Officials: John McGrath, Gillian Sweeney, Niki Legge, Maggie O'Toole

1. Minutes approved from May 7, 2024.
2. Presentation – Tammy and Jeff Bourne provided an overview of U-Turn Drop-In Centre, which is a non-profit organization. One goal they identified was to work towards a transitional house in Carbonear to support individuals once they have completed a program at the Grace Treatment Centre. Peer support was also identified as an important aspect for recovery, including the importance of implementing mobile peer support particularly for smaller communities outside St. John's with less transportation options. Other areas raised included need for education for front line workers about addictions, improved communication about available services, knowledge of stepped care model, and stabilized funding.

Biggest improvements noted since implementation of Towards Recovery included peer support now being recognized as an important aspect of health care; U-Turn having a liaison with the Department of Health and Community Services; and decrease in Opioid Dependence Treatment wait times.

Biggest improvements identified included the need for more navigators in the province; streamlining of resources to support those with addictions (e.g., of a nurse practitioner to support community organizations to support better flow of clients/participants referrals); preventing staff turnover; education of frontline staff on addictions and more options for supportive living after in-patient addiction treatment.

3. Action Items
 - Secretariat to put together list of stakeholders and how long they have been in established.