

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

Date: May 28, 2024

Time: 3:30 p.m. – 4:15 p.m.

Attendees:

Committee Members: John Haggie, Sherry Gambin-Walsh, Paul Pike, Joedy Wall, Jim McKenna, and Jim Dinn

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

1. Minutes approved from May 22, 2024.
2. Presentation – NLHS CEO and NLHS Mental Health and Addictions directors provided a presentation on the mental and addictions services offered through the NLHS. During the presentation wait times for some services were discussed (NLHS said they could provide further details, if requested) and how lived experience is incorporated into their programming and services. Discussion included wait times for certain services (e.g. services for children, access to pediatricians, and Dialectic Behavioural Therapy); whether Hope Valley Treatment Centre secure locked unit beds had been used for that purpose, which they have not as the legislative authority does not exist to do so; what is done in areas such as Labrador where internet can make access to virtual services challenging; and the number of vehicles currently operating for Mobile Crisis Response and what a typical call would entail.

Biggest improvement needed going forward included: retention of health care providers once they are trained in NLHS, as many have been moving into private practice; and the need for additional detox beds and options for stable housing after treatment.

3. Action Items
 - NLHS to follow up with HCS on the number of vehicles used for Mobile Crisis Response.