

Terms of Reference

All-Party Committee on Mental Health, Substance Use and Addiction

1.0 Mandate

The All-Party Committee on Youth Mental Health, Substance Use and Addiction is convened in response to the continued need for promotion, prevention, early intervention, treatment and support for youth living with mental health, substance use and addiction issues, and the interrelationship between these issues and other social determinants of health, such as housing, poverty and education.

Building on the work of Towards Recovery and the ongoing implementation of the Newfoundland and Labrador Health Accord, the All-Party Committee will review mental health, substance use and addiction services within the provincial mental health care system with the goal of providing recommendations on improvements to existing programs and services, and the development and implementation of new ones where necessary, to better serve the needs of people in Newfoundland and Labrador with an emphasis on young people.

The committee will consist of Members from all parties of the House of Assembly.

2.0 Purpose

1. To review current provincial mental health and substance use and addiction services, with an emphasis on youth and young adults;
2. To consult and receive testimony from individuals and family with lived and living experience, community partners, and experts in child and youth services, education, health services, housing, and justice on best practices in mental health care delivery and service integration across the various systems; and,
3. To submit a report of its findings and make recommendations to the Provincial Government with the goal of improving mental health and substance use and addictions programs and services for youth in the province.

3.0 Key Principles

- Collaborative: All members will follow generally accepted rules of collaborative work, such as respect, active listening, tolerance of differing views, etc.
- Consensus-seeking: Although consensus may not be possible on all points, best efforts will be made to reach consensus on as many key points as possible with the ultimate goal of presenting a consensus report.
- Open and transparent: Information, analysis, and feedback received throughout the process will be made publicly available.
- Accountable: Committee members commit to consider and respond to all major points made or ideas proposed, even if they disagree with or are not supportive of them.
- Accurate and thorough: Best efforts will be made to capture the views of all those interested in the topic and ensure full analyses of available data; analysis and summary efforts will strive to keep the 'voice' of the presenters intact.
- Shared learning: All involved understand that this is a complex topic and that there is always more to learn about it; they accept that they can learn from experts, individuals and families with lived and living experience and one another.

4.0 Membership and Meetings

4.1 Membership

Minister of Health and Community Services, Chair
Three (3) Government MHAs
Two (2) Official opposition MHAs
One (1) Third Party MHA

If a member cannot attend a meeting, that member may be represented by an alternate Member of the House of Assembly.

4.2 Meetings

- Meetings will be scheduled monthly, or more often as needed, at the call of the Chair.
- Meetings may be held virtually or in-person. If necessary, travel, accommodations, and per diems will be reimbursed for members as per Government of Newfoundland and Labrador's travel policy.
- Administrative support will be provided by the Department of Health and Community Services.
- Any public communications will be approved by the committee.

4.3 Role of Chair

The Chair will convene and manage committee meetings in accordance with the terms of reference, and will facilitate requests made by committee members in collaboration with administrative support.

The Chair will be the public spokesperson for the committee.

4.4 Voting

Decisions are made by consensus. If consensus is not possible, majority voice voting is used with the minority view documented.

5.0 Timeline and Committee Wrap-Up

The committee will convene from the day of official announcement to when final recommendations are finalized at which time the committee will dissolve. The anticipated time frame is six months.