

## Supervised Consumption Site: Wrap Around Services

### Objective

- Provide a comprehensive review of the on-site and off-site supports that will be available to clients utilizing the Safe Consumption Site (SCS)
- Outline the role that the SCS/SCS staff will have in assuring access to the various treatment services

### Rationale

We understand that those making use of the SCS are likely to be some of our most vulnerable community members. As such, consistent with the philosophy of harm reduction (reduce the severity/ number of harms incurred by individuals facing mental health and substance use concerns), we believe that the SCS provides the opportunity to save lives, AND give individuals the ability to connect with treatment services that can provide positive, lasting change. This means equipping individuals with resources pertaining to addiction and mental health services, alongside basic needs such as housing, food, and primary care.

### Addiction Services

As the lead agency in the application and operations of the SCS, The Canadian Mental Health Association Simcoe County Branch (CMHA SCB) will be a substantial part of providing low-barrier access to appropriate addiction treatment for interested clients of the SCS. As one of the leading partners in Simcoe County providing out-patient addiction services, as well as referrals to residential treatment programs, CMHA SCB will be able to ensure the facilitation and continuity of care for members of the SCS who request and/or require follow-up addiction treatment. Specifically, CMHA SCB will provide on-site services via two main programs: The Addictions Outreach Program and the Mobile Withdrawal Management Services (MWMS) program. The Addictions Outreach Counsellor will provide on-site brief counselling, screening, and completing/scheduling intakes for ongoing treatment. Intakes for both out-patient addictions counselling as well as assessment and referrals to residential treatment programs will be viable options explored. Group counselling support will also be explored during these sessions. The Mobile Withdrawal Management Services staff, on the other hand, will provide on-site withdrawal assessment, screening, and provide service options to clients who express interest in this program. By providing these services on-site, staff will help service and provide treatment to those who otherwise may have difficulty accessing off-site addictions treatment, while simultaneously relieving hospital visits/admissions related to substance use.

When in-patient withdrawal services are required and/or requested, RVH Residential Withdrawal Management Services (WMS) are also offered off-site within walking distance from the SCS. This off-site program is able to accept direct admissions from those seeking service from the SCS. SCS staff will facilitate initial contact and telephone screening for admission to WMS to support a smooth transition of care.

Additionally, Barrie's Rapid Access Addiction Medicine Clinic (RAAM), which is a program of the Royal Victoria Health Centre (RVH), provides leading-edge addiction medicine and opioid agonist treatment (OAT; i.e. Suboxone) to appropriate and interested candidates. Although an off-site service, the RAAM clinic is located within walking distance to the SCS and will be another convenient and readily available service to clients. The SCS staff will be able to support clients with contacting RAAM services by phone and scheduling an intake for their services. Additionally, RAAM works in close partnership with CMHA SCB by participating in a well-rounded, holistic treatment service. Specifically, CMHA SCB and RAAM have a direct service referral program whereby RAAM staff can refer clients directly to CMHA SCB's counsellors for outpatient treatment specific to opioid use. When SCS staff assist clients in connecting with RAAM, they are opening the door for clients to access both OAT and counselling treatment for their substance use related concerns. In the event that some clients are unable, unwilling, or have a previous history of discontinuing Suboxone use due to adverse side effects; SCS staff will be able to facilitate connection and referral to other off-site OAT providers for methadone-specific treatment.

### Mental Health Services

Access to Mental Health services will be available both on-site and off-site of the SCS. On-site initiatives will be largely serviced by CMHA SCB's Brief Service Mental Health & Case management programs. These programs are goal-oriented programs that assist individuals with how to manage their mental health symptoms safely and productively within the community. Utilizing available space within the SCS, staff from these CMHA SCB programs will be able to screen clients for eligibility and complete/schedule intakes for these programs. Staff of the Brief Services Mental Health and Case Management programs will also be able to conduct internal referrals to other CMHA SCB programs, including addiction intakes and/or CMHA SCB youth services.

Off-site, SCS staff will be able to facilitate referrals for specific mental health counselling to two community partners: Catholic Family Services (CFS) and Newpath Youth & Family Services. Both services offer free and/or low-cost mental health counselling, as well as provide call-in and walk-in counselling weekly. The on-site SCS staff can facilitate the initial connection between client and relevant mental health partner.

### Primary Care Services

Regulated Health Professionals (RHP) hired by the SCS will provide general medical assessment and wound care while on-site. CMHA also has a Nurse Practitioner clinic that regularly operates

out of their 90 Mulcaster building. The NP will extend their services to provide services to help facilitate assessment, testing, treatment, and follow-up primary care to those clients of the SCS who are not connected to a family physician. Both the NP of CMHA and the RHP's of the SCS will be able to coordinate and refer clients to additional walk-in and/or emergency services when warranted. For individuals that require primary care support or the follow-up of a physician, they will also be able to assist clients with registering for this via Health Care Connect. SMDHU will provide sexual health and harm reduction services within the SCS touch-down space. The Gilbert Centre has also agreed to assist with sexual health and Hepatitis C testing by utilizing the available on-site space.

### Social Supports (counselling, housing, food, employment)

Social supports are an avenue of care vital for a holistic treatment approach when it comes to addiction and mental health treatment. Alongside the on-site medical care that was previously mentioned, The Gilbert Center will also provide on-site social assistance in the areas related to LGBTQ2S+ support, sexual health and information pertaining to consent, harm reduction, court support, among others. In addition, the John Howard Society (JHS) will deploy staff to the SCS to assist clients who may be reintegrating into the community after incarceration, who are legally involved, and/or who require employment, court, and/or housing support.

Aside from these on-site services, there are a number of resources in the community that are available also related to social support. Specifically, emergency housing can be arranged amongst on-site SCS staff and community partners such as The David Busby Centre, The Salvation Army Bayside Mission, and the Elizabeth Fry Society. SCS staff can facilitate access to these programs via telephone support/intake, where clients will also have the opportunity to be screened for the Housing First initiative.

Athena's Sexual Assault Counselling and Advocacy Centre is another off-site resource that specifically provides gender-specific programming to women who have faced/are facing sexual abuse. For men who have experienced/are experiencing sexual violence, CFS will be able to assist through their gender-specific programming, as well. SCS Staff will be able to facilitate contact with these programs while clients use the services at the SCS.

### Other

Recognizing that those experiencing grief may use substances to cope, clients who are requesting bereavement support, will be provided with information and ways to connect with Hospice Simcoe. Hospice Simcoe provides individual bereavement counselling for those specifically impacted by death due to opioids use.

### Conclusion

The SCS is an invaluable resource for our community. Not only does it allow for us to intervene during moments that will help save lives, but it also has the ability to influence and transform lives. On-site and off-site access to the services mentioned above, gives great opportunity to the members of our community who need it most.