



Working Together

Durham Region Dual Diagnosis Resource Guide
for People with a Dual Diagnosis

2008 Edition

For Immediate Release

AGENCIES LAUNCH TEAMWORK APPROACH TO HELP PEOPLE WITH DUAL DIAGNOSES AND THEIR FAMILIES

WHITBY, Ontario – November 24, 2008 – There is now a one stop resource guide for families who need help caring for someone with a dual diagnosis in the community. The Durham Region Dual Diagnosis Committee launched its resource guide at a one day seminar that showcased how the collaborative services work. A team of 18 mental health and developmental service agencies met today with families of people who have an intellectual disability combined with a mental health need or challenging behavior at the Whitby Mental Health Centre.

The Durham Region Dual Diagnosis Committee was formed in the early 1990's. It is a partnership of community based organizations that work together to support adults with dual diagnoses and their families. This new resource guide packages all the available services together with other useful information to help families and care providers to navigate the system of services that is in place in Durham Region.

“We know that people with a dual diagnosis often have very complicated needs, and everyone is unique. By working together our agencies collaborate on delivery of services that best meet the needs of each family situation,” says Pam Carter, Coordinator of the Central East Network of Specialized Care. “We are helping to create a fair, accessible and sustainable system of community based supports for individuals with intellectual disabilities and mental health needs and/or challenging behaviors. Our goal is to make access to a complicated system of services easy for families, and to offer them the services they need to support their family member at home.” The Central East Network of Specialized Care works with the Durham Region Dual Diagnosis Committee to advocate for the needs of adults with dual diagnoses and their families in Durham Region.

“The resource guide that has been launched today is an extremely comprehensive listing of services and access points to help people on an ongoing basis to navigate a necessarily complicated system.” Jim Johnston, of Concerned Parents of Toronto Inc. says “Anyone who thinks they might need help shouldn't hesitate to use this guide, or to call for more information.”

The Durham Region Dual Diagnosis Committee Resource Guide for People with a Dual Diagnosis is available on-line through the National Association for Dually Diagnosed Ontario web-site at naddontario.org. For more information about assistance for someone with a dual diagnosis or support for their family members call Whitby Mental Health Centre Dual Diagnosis Support Unit at 905-668-5881 ext. 6755.

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