



Healthy Living Program Awarded with Leading Practice

Oshawa (September, 2012) - In August 2012, the Healthy Living Program (HLP) at Canadian Mental Health Association Durham received great news recognizing their excellence and innovation in healthcare. The HLP was awarded the designation of Leading Practice from Accreditation Canada. The program will be formally recognized in February 2013 at the Accreditation Canada Quality Conference.

Accreditation Canada recognizes Leading Practices in Canadian Organizations across the care continuum that are particularly innovative and creative with solutions to improve quality in Canadian Health Care Delivery. In the case of the HLP, it related to one of the Primary care Standards and specifically: "The clinic works with each client and family to promote health and prevent disease". It is innovative in that it is one of the few programs that integrates vascular health and mental health.

Kelly Delaney RPN , Healthy Living Program Coordinator and developer has worked with staff and partners to evaluate the results of the program which have been shared with participants demonstrating evidence of the program benefits. Evidence is also clear from the ongoing positive feedback and excitement from program participants, along with their family members and caregivers. The program focuses on and enhances overall well-being. The HLP is currently funded through the Public Health Agency of Canada (Canadian Diabetes Strategy) which will end in 2013.

The Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA), founded in 1918, is one of the oldest voluntary organizations in Canada. Each year, it provides direct service to more than 100,000 Canadians through the combined efforts of more than 10,000 volunteers and staff across Canada with 120 branches in over 135 communities. CMHA Durham strives for continuous improvement to services and is gearing up for its fourth accreditation in October 2012. For more information visit www.durham.cmha.ca

Accreditation Canada is an independently operated, not-for-profit organization accredited by the International Society for Quality in Health Care (ISQua). The organization provides external, peer-reviewed evaluations to healthcare organizations, assessing quality of services and patient care based on standards of excellence.

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