



Media Release

H.O.M.E Program Launch - A multi-disciplinary, multi-sectoral mobile response to the converging public health crisis: opioid poisoning and overdose, COVID-19, and housing precarity.

LONDON -- February 3, 2021 – Tomorrow is the official launch of the Health Outreach Mobile Engagement (H.O.M.E) Program. The H.O.M.E Program was developed to improve the health outcomes and healthy equity of highly marginalized individuals by providing health services to people where they are at: shelters, encampments, housing, and in other community settings. The team is very excited about this new approach to client care.

“The H.O.M.E Program seeks to change the narrative on how healthcare is provided to people deprived of housing. What if, instead of talking about hard-to-reach patients, we flip that around and talk about hard-to-reach doctors? Or hard-to-reach services? Or a system with oppressive attitudes? The H.O.M.E Program brings healthcare directly to where people need it, in the way they say they need it, and erases barriers to care present in traditional healthcare services. The H.O.M.E Program truly follows the harm reduction tenet of ‘meet me where I am at.’”

- Dr. Andrea Sereda, Physician, London InterCommunity Health Centre

The program is a collaborative approach between the London InterCommunity Health Centre (LIHC), Middlesex-London Paramedic Service (MLPS), Addiction Services of Thames Valley (ADSTV), and Regional HIV/AIDS Connection (RHAC).

The inter-disciplinary team will provide primary care, harm reduction, support with substance use, basic needs, and wrap-around care services at various sites across the city. Two days a week, services will be offered from a Middlesex-London Paramedics Service Special Operations Bus that has been outfitted to deliver multiple health services. An emergency support SUV will be deployed three days a week to assist the H.O.M.E team in providing care to clients.

The program aims to engage individuals who face barriers to accessing traditional models of care in harm reduction, stabilizing healthcare, and comprehensive care services. Partners will work collaboratively from an anti-oppression, anti-racism, health equity framework anchored in a participant-led approach.

“The H.O.M.E service model is the kind of progressive and integrated healthcare approach that is needed both in the context of the present COVID-19 situation and when we move past this pandemic. RHAC is pleased to collaborate with these respected community partners on this initiative as we strive to connect with and provide life-saving support to many of London’s most marginalized citizens.”

- Brian Lester, Executive Director, Regional HIV/AIDS Connection

"ADSTV is very pleased to participate in the H.O.M.E Program with our key partners, LIHC, MLPS, and RHAC. Together we can provide life-saving harm reduction and wrap-around medical and health/social services directly to the population that needs us in a coordinated manner. H.O.M.E is an important

development in the evolution of homeless services and we are proud to help implement this innovation during the COVID pandemic."

- Linda Sibley, Executive Director, Addiction Services of Thames Valley

"Middlesex-London Paramedic Service is proud of the multi-agency collaboration that has formed the H.O.M.E Program. This coordinated team will ensure clients are provided with wrap-around care to address the social determinants of health, with effective and efficient use of resources."

- Chief Neal Roberts, Middlesex-London Paramedic Service

To learn more about the H.O.M.E Program, visit www.homeprogram.ca/media.

To schedule an interview with Dr. Andrea Sereda (LIHC Physician) or Scott Courtice (Executive Director), please contact:

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