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EVOLUTION OF A PROVINCIAL NETWORK

HOW ONTARIO'S EARLY PSYCHOSIS INTERVENTION GRASSROOTS GREW

ABSTRACT

The Early Psychosis Intervention Ontario Network (EPION) is a provincial coalition of over 50 early psychosis intervention (EPI) programs, one of the largest EPI networks globally. It has evolved to meet the changing needs of its membership, supporting evidence-based care, research, and policy development & implementation for youth and families with complex mental health needs. This presentation highlights the multi-stakeholder approach in EPION. Key points and challenges to remaining current and relevant will be shared in this poster presentation.

2013–2015: MATURATION OF EPION

2013

EPION Conference: I.M.P.A.C.T. Innovative Practices; Measurements/Outcome Measures/Physical Health and Activity/Access (Facilitating Access and Early Identification)/Concurrent Disorders (Substance Use)/ Transitions from EPI Programs and Relapse Prevention

Annualized funding for EPION announced with formal partnership with the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH).

Education and Outreach Think-Tank
The purpose was to provide EPI programs an opportunity to explore the Ontario EPI standard on education and outreach. Results of Survey 1 had emphasized programs were struggling in this area and wanted new strategies to make improvements.

2011–2013: EPI STANDARDS EVALUATION

2011

Standards Implementation Steering Committee (SISC) formed

SISC was formed with the mandate to work collaboratively to develop an implementation, monitoring and evaluation plan for the EPI program standards.

2011

OWG Conference: Addressing Stigma

2010

OWG Conference: Social Inclusion

2009

OWG Conference: Vocational Recovery, International Consensus Statement

2004–2010: TRAINING NEW EPI WORKFORCE

1999–2004: ADVOCACY

1999

Ontario Working Group (OWG) is established

under direction Mr. John Trainor and a small group of clinicians working in psychotic disorders with youth. Goal of OWG was to partner with families, community agencies, and government to improve the treatment of psychotic illnesses in Ontario.

2016: CONTINUING TO GROW

2016

EPION Conference: Program Evaluation and Provincial Standards

2015

Conference Celebration of 10 Years of EPI Program Funding in Ontario

Past Chairs of OWG/EPION, international EPI leaders and previous speakers were brought together with members of EPION to celebrate in October 2015. Keynote speakers included Drs. Ashok Malla, Patrick McGorry, and David Shiers, plus over 75 other workshops and presentations.

Knowledge Exchange Think-Tank

The objective was to strengthen relationships with key external strategic partners and identify how to be responsive to the needs and challenges facing the Local Health Integration Networks (LHINs) and Ministry of Health & Long-Term Care (MOHLTC).

2014

Working Groups Formalized

Community of Interest, Metabolic and Physical Health, Research, Standards Implementation Steering Committee, Conference Planning

Family Worker Think-Tank

Provided an opportunity to explore challenges and strengths in working with and supporting families, the barriers facing programs in meeting related Ontario EPI standards, and possible options going forward.

Psychological Therapies Webinar

The day-long seminar featured presentations about Cognitive Behaviour Therapy (CBT) for psychosis, dialectical Behavioural Therapy (DBT) for psychosis and Acceptance Commitment Therapy (ACT) as applied to psychosis.

Metabolic and Physical Health Monitoring Think-Tank

Provided representatives from EPI programs with an opportunity to explore best practices in monitoring of clients' physical health. Working Group formed in response to concerns and interest.

Second Province-Wide Survey

This survey examined EPI program domains including staff training and education, research and program evaluation, barriers to service, and health equity.

2012

OWG Changes Name to EPION

(Early Psychosis Intervention Ontario Network)

Community of Interest (CoI) Established

CoI funding was initially supported by EENet (Centre for Addiction and Mental Health; CAMH) for 2 years. The focus was to engage the education sector with EPION (e.g., infographics, educational resources for secondary schools, webinars).

EPION Conference: Mobilizing the Standards and Bringing them to Life.

First Province-Wide Survey^[1]

This survey examined EPI program service delivery domains, in relation to the first half of the recently released provincial EPI Program Standards, and variations based on geographic context.

2011: ONTARIO EPI STANDARDS RELEASED^[2]

2005-2008

Annual Province-Wide OWG Conferences

Goal of these early conferences was to provide an annual opportunity to network and to learn from each other, and to implement and to develop EPI programs across the province.

2004

First Annual OWG Province-Wide Conference

The focus of the conference was to provide education and training to the new EPI workforce at over 30 new EPI programs.

2004 Ontario EPI Framework^[3]

The *Program Policy Framework for Early Intervention in Psychosis* was developed to guide program implementation across the province.

2003-2004

Annualized Funding for EPI Programs in Ontario Announced