



Call for *abstracts*

2024 AMHO Annual Conference

Due Date: June 17, 2024

OVERVIEW

Addictions and Mental Health Ontario (AMHO) is pleased to announce our 2024 Conference- **Stronger Together: Promoting Sustainability in Mental Health and Addictions**. The Conference will be held at the **Hilton Toronto** in Downtown Toronto on **October 21 and 22, 2024**.

AMHO's conference offers participants an opportunity to engage in relevant and dynamic content, in addition to networking with mental health and addictions partners from across the health care system, including: mental health and addictions providers, other health, social and housing providers that work with mental health and addictions clients, policy planners and system leaders, researchers, health care consultants, advocacy organizations and associations, etc.

Share your knowledge, projects, innovations, and lessons learned with people passionate about mental health and addictions. We are encouraging the submission of abstracts from across the health and social care system, at local, regional, provincial, and national levels. This year, we are accepting abstracts that explore the following five streams:

- Homelessness and Housing
- Drug Toxicity Crisis
- Health Human Resources
- Ontario Health Teams / Health Care Integration
- Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion

PRESENTATION INFORMATION

Your abstract submission should convey evidence-informed practices, experience, or perspectives on providing high quality, effective, integrated, culturally competent, person-centered mental health and addictions services and supports. Presentations can focus on innovative policies and initiatives, demonstration projects and research findings.

CONFERENCE STREAMS

Share your perspectives, insights, and innovations on the following five streams. Topics may include, but are not limited to:

1. Homelessness and Housing:

- Strategies for better serving individuals experiencing homelessness, including those living in encampments, such as crisis services, outreach services, shelters, and transitional housing.
- Innovative programs, services and proposals that provide access to supportive housing.
- Approaches for collaborative and sustainable relationships between private landlords, supportive housing providers, and supportive housing residents.
- Improving transitions for individuals leaving provincial correctional institutions, to enable admission to transitional and/or supportive housing, and MHA services.
- Fostering an environment of belonging for staff members with lived and living experience of homelessness, housing insecurity and/or mental health and addictions.

2. Drug Toxicity Crisis:

- A range of perspectives are encouraged, including those with experience in and knowledge of harm reduction, supervised consumption services, safer supply, Rapid Access to Addictions Medicine clinics, community addictions services, and bed-based addictions services.
- Emerging practices in harm reduction and outreach services amid a growingly toxic drug supply, including addressing benzodiazepine and Xylazine-related harms.
- Impact and outcomes of safer supply programs.
- Perspectives on the drug toxicity crisis from rural, remote, and Indigenous communities.
- Drug checking services and surveillance of substance use trends to inform service providers and keep clients safe.

3. Health Human Resources:

- Innovative approaches to recruit skilled workers in the context of an HHR crisis.
- Strategies for enhancing retention, such as providing training and education opportunities to cultivate knowledge within your organization and to advance the skills of qualified staff.
- HHR challenges and opportunities in rural, remote, and Indigenous communities.
- Centering frontline workers, including peer workers, in HHR planning and decision-making.

4. Ontario Health Teams (OHTs) / Health Care Integration:

- Experiences with OHTs and/or other integrated health care models, reflecting on challenges faced, lessons learned, and successful outcomes achieved.
- Initiatives aimed at bridging the gap between primary care and mental health and addictions sectors.
- Multi-sector collaborations to improve care pathways for clients, families, and caregivers navigating between mental health and addictions services and the social services and housing sector.

5. Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion:

- Efforts to incorporate cultural perspectives into the development and implementation of mental health and addictions initiatives and services.
- Collaborative initiatives aimed at enhancing outcomes for diverse populations through partnerships between health systems and communities.
- Embedding equity, diversity and inclusion in internal policies, governance, and HR.
- Using data to measure the impact of MHA services on equity-deserving populations, inform decision making, and enable reporting on outcomes.

DELIVERY CHOICES

Your proposal will be carefully evaluated and may be accepted for any of the following formats below, depending on the scope of content and engagement strategies proposed.

1. Panel Discussion

- Panel discussions are 90 minutes-long and include a maximum of four experts (plus a moderator).
- Abstracts must indicate if identified panelists are proposed or confirmed. Panel abstracts with proposed panelists may be given provisional approval subject to the confirmation of all panelists.

2. Session

- A session is an interactive session on a specific topic and will be 60 minutes which allows for knowledge transfer, interaction, and discussion.

3. Oral Presentation

- An oral presentation will be 15- to 20-minutes-long, including time for questions.
- Oral presentations will be grouped thematically (usually two to four presentations).

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Please submit an abstract that includes the following:

- Abstract author(s): Name, role, organization, email, telephone number.
- Presenter(s) / Panelist Biography (50 words or less per individual).
- Description of proposed presentation, session, or panel discussion (200 words or less) including:
 - Clear and succinct proposal title.
 - Selection of one of the 5 streams and delivery choices noted above.
 - Summary of content you are proposing to deliver at the conference, demonstrating how it aligns with the conference stream(s) and outlining the learning objectives associated with the proposal.

SELECTION PROCESS

The Conference Planning committee will review and select sessions taking into consideration the following criteria:

- Potential for the session's topic to enhance the attendees' knowledge and/or skills and generate engaging and meaningful discussions.
- Content that is evidence-informed, current, innovative, and clear.
- Overall alignment with conference theme and streams, with an aim to limit overlap.
- Inclusion of the voice and perspectives of persons with lived/living experience.

Please Note:

1. Unless otherwise indicated in your submission, all presentations will be posted to the AMHO website.
2. AMHO does not provide fees or honorariums for speakers or cover travel and other costs.
3. All speakers are required to register for the conference.

APPLICATION DEADLINE

All proposals must be received by **June 17, 2024**. Please send in your complete abstracts through this [LINK](#).

If you have any questions and/or inquires, please email Hilary Leung at hilary.leung@amho.ca.

We regret that not all proposals will be accepted due to space limitations. Sessions will be selected to ensure a comprehensive and dynamic program.

On behalf of AMHO, thank you for your interest in our Annual Conference.