

Conference Agenda

Day One - Tuesday, March 24th, 2026

Addictions and Mental Health Ontario's
10th Annual Conference



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7:30 AM	Breakfast	
8:30 AM	Opening Ceremony and Cultural Opening	
8:45 AM	Opening Remarks, AMHO Board Chair	Lori Spadorcia, Chair, Board of Directors, Addictions and Mental Health Ontario (AMHO) and Executive Vice-President, Public Affairs and Partnerships, and Chief Strategy Officer, Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH)
8:50 AM	CEO Address	Jennifer Holmes Weier, Chief Executive Officer, AMHO
9:00 AM	Welcome Remarks Ontario Government	Hon. Vijay Thanigasalam, Associate Minister Mental Health and Addictions
9:20 AM	Opening Panel	<p>The Current State of Mental Health, Substance Use Health, and Addictions in Ontario</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Alexander Caudarella, Chief Executive Officer, Canadian Centre on Substance Use and Addiction (CCSA) • Michael Cooper, Vice President of Data & Partnerships, Mental Health Research Canada • Dr. Amy Porath, Director, Research and Mobilization, Knowledge Institute on Child and Youth Mental Health and Addictions (Knowledge Institute CYMHA) • Dr. Nadiya Sunderji, President and Chief Executive Officer, Waypoint Centre for Mental Health Care
10:15 AM	Networking and Wellness Break	
10:30 AM	Sponsored Session	<p>Using Virtual Reality Simulations to Teach Management of Opioid Overdose</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Petal Abool, CAMH
10:45 AM	Feature Session	<p>Public Perspectives on Mental Health and Addictions Care</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • David Coletto, Founder, Chair, Chief Executive Officer, Abacus Data
11:45 AM	Lunch Sponsored by: Knowledge Institute on Child and Youth Mental Health and Addictions	
1:00 PM	Panel Discussion	<p>Building a System of Profound Support</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Andrew Boozary, Executive Director, Gattuso Centre for Social Medicine, University Health Network (UHN) • Carole-Anne Chiasson, Executive Director, Youth Wellness Hubs Ontario • Dr. Stephen Gaetz, Director, Canadian Observatory on Homelessness; Professor, York University • Paul Pedersen, Executive Director, Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police
2:00 PM	AMHO Communities of Practice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supportive Housing • Equity • Mental Health • Addictions • Child and Youth Mental Health and Addictions
2:45 PM	Networking and Wellness Break	
3:00 PM	Panel Discussion	<p>Keys to Transformation: Health Equity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Scott Neufeld, Assistant Professor, Brock University • Ashnoor Rahim, VP Clinical Services, Ontario Shores Centre for Mental Health Sciences • Joanne Simons, Chief Executive Officer, Casey House
3:40 PM	Panel Discussion	<p>Keys to Transformation: Mental Health and Addictions Supportive Housing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mark MacAulay, President and Chief Executive Officer, Ottawa Salus • Aaron Stauch, Executive Director, Ontario Municipal Social Services Association • Dr. Vicky Stergiopoulos, Senior Scientist, General Adult Psychiatry and Health Systems Division, Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH)
4:20 PM	Closing Remarks	
4:30 PM	Program Concludes	
7:00 PM	<p>The Walrus Talks Opioids, Presented by AMHO</p> <p>(Isabel Bader Theatre)</p>	<p>Featuring seven-minute talks by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Jennifer Brasch, Lead, Addiction Psychiatry, St. Joseph's Healthcare Hamilton • Kevin Brosseau, Commissioner of Canada's Fight Against Fentanyl, Privy Council Office • Rennie Linklater, PhD, Senior Director, Shkaabe Makwa, CAMH • Mayor Marianne Meed Ward, Mayor, Burlington, Chair of the Ontario Big City Mayor's Caucus • Scott Menzies, Founder, Hard Hats Support; CEO, The Coating Inspector; Construction Professional and Mental Health Advocate • Suzanne Obiorah, CEO, Somerset West Community Health Centre; Co-founder, Ottawa Black Mental Health <p>**Additional speakers to be announced</p>

Conference Agenda

Day Two - Wednesday, March 25th, 2026

Addictions and Mental Health Ontario's
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7:30 AM	Breakfast					
8:00 AM	Networking Event – Hot Topics					
8:45 AM	Opening Remarks					
9:00 AM	Keynote Address	<p>The Power of Health Communications to Shape Public Understanding, Influence Policy, and Drive Meaningful System Change</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • André Picard, Award-Winning National Health Writer and Author 				
9:45 AM	Fireside Chat	<p>In Conversation with Ontario Health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Matthew Anderson, President and Chief Executive Officer, Ontario Health • Jennifer Holmes Weier, Chief Executive Officer, AMHO 				
10:15 AM	Networking and Wellness Break					
10:30 AM	Panel Discussion	<p>Keys to Transformation: Ontario's Mental Health and Addictions Workforce</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Mary Bartram, Adjunct Research Professor, Carleton University ; McConnell Visiting Scholar, Max Bell School of Public Policy, McGill University • Deborah Cohen, Chief Operating Officer, Health Workforce Canada • Sarah Hobbs, Chief Executive Officer, Alliance for Healthier Communities 				
11:20 AM	Concurrent Sessions	<p>Waypoint Centre for Mental Health Care: Connecting Care: Early Outcomes of Ontario's First Mental Health At-Home Program</p>	<p>Knowledge Institute CYMHA: Advancing a coordinated pathway to child and youth mental health and substance use health care</p>	<p>DeNovo Treatment Centre: Correlation between Mental Health and Substance Use Outcomes in a Sample of Tradespeople</p>	<p>Homewood Health Centre: Building Resiliency in Adolescence: The Evolution of the Strengthen, Prevention & Awareness Workshops for Grade 8 Students</p>	<p>CAPSA: Community-Verified Integration in the West Ottawa HART Hub</p>
		<p>The Neighbourhood Group and CAMH: The Next Chapter: A Novel Post-Discharge Intervention for Substance Use Disorders</p>	<p>Covenant House: Reducing the Risk of Homelessness and School Disengagement with Cross-Systems Partnerships</p>	<p>Pine River Institute: Hidden Needs and Missed Signals: Neurodevelopmental Barriers in Youth Substance Use</p>	<p>HF Care: Beyond the Referral: Re-Centering Racial Equity and Power in Community-Hospital Mental Health Partnerships</p>	<p>Kids Come First: Driving Change Through Partnership: A Hospital - Community Model for Paediatric Substance Use Health Care</p>
12:00 PM	Lunch					
1:00 PM	Concurrent Sessions	<p>City of Hamilton and McMaster University: Evaluating the Benefits and Impacts of the Hamilton Public Library Social Work Program</p>	<p>Shkaabe Makwa: Lifting Societal Health: Health Justice and Reconciliation for First Nations, Inuit, and Métis</p>	<p>Schwartz/Reisman Emergency Medicine (SREMI) at Mount Sinai: Making it Work for Young Adults in the Emergency Department: Pathway to Peers at Mount Sinai</p>	<p>SOAR Community Services: Measuring What Matters: Implementing Progress and Outcome Monitoring Across a Diverse Continuum of Care</p>	<p>Addiction Services Central Ontario (ASCO), Health Sciences North and CCSA: From Barriers to Bridges: The Digital Front Door to Rapid Access Addictions Medicine (RAAM) Clinics in Ontario Improves Access to Care and Outcomes</p>
		<p>Your Support Services Network: Crisis Service Continuum</p>	<p>Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre: Implementing the Family Navigation Project in Northern Ontario: A Community-Driven Approach</p>	<p>Homes First: Housing Operator and Virtual Opioid Agonist Therapy/Safer Supply Clinic Partnership to Stabilize Clients to Help Them Secure and Maintain Housing</p>	<p>Stonehenge Therapeutic Community, Guelph CHC and Kindle Communities: Housing is Healthcare: Outcomes and Lessons from the 10 Shelldale Permanent Supportive Housing Model</p>	<p>Wayside House of Hamilton: Using Measurement to Drive Recovery: Pre-, Post- and Within Treatment Methods</p>
1:45 PM	Workshops and Consultations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quality for Leaders, Excellence through Quality Improvement Project (E-QIP) • Navigating Media Interviews with Confidence, Enterprise Health • Special Leadership Consultation (Member CEOs only), Ontario Mental Health and Addictions Centre of Excellence • Collaborating in a Hybrid Environment: Building Accountability, Connection & Culture, HR à la carte 				
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2:50 PM	Closing Remarks					
3:00 PM	Program Concludes					

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