

# Conference Agenda

Day One - Tuesday, March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2026

Addictions and Mental Health Ontario's  
10<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference



**DRIVING CHANGE,  
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COMMUNITIES**

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



# Conference Agenda

Day Two - Wednesday, March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2026

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

# Thank You to Our Sponsors

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