Year 2 of our **Strategic Plan 2016-2019 - Building on our Strengths.**

Recapping highlights from progress we’ve made together on our four strategic directions:

1. Supporting members in their service delivery

2. Ensuring an accessible and comprehensive system of care

3. Being a strong, effective voice of community mental health and addictions

4. Building the sustainability of the association
It has been my honour to serve as President of AMHO’s Board for two years - two busy years. In that time we have said goodbye to Gail and welcomed Adrienne and we have witnessed a change in government. We need AMHO now more than ever, the need for more support for individuals and their families who require mental health and/or addiction services is greater today than ever before. Collectively, our diverse and vibrant services make a huge difference in the lives of people all across Ontario. AMHO speaks to government and the public about the impact of community mental health and addictions services. I look forward to seeing AMHO continue to grow in strength and influence in the years ahead.”

Vaughan Dowie, Board President

I am thrilled to join AMHO as CEO at this critical juncture of a new government committed to historic investments in mental health and addictions. No one knows about how new resources can help grow and adapt our community more than you - our members. My top priority in the upcoming year will be to meet and learn from as many of you as possible in order to do the critical work AMHO does best: advocating for you and the people you serve. Join us as we grow even stronger as a community, dedicated to improving access and quality of life and care for Ontarians living with mental illness and addiction.”

Adrienne Spafford, CEO

The community mental health and addiction sector needs to continue doing what it does best: providing highly client-centered services, with limited resources, and innovating and partnering to reach those who are not being served adequately or at all. If there is one urgent message I would like to leave with AMHO members, it is: Don’t wait to be asked - step forward with your resources and ideas. Partner with people with lived experience and reach across to other colleagues to find ways to demonstrate: We know what to do and how to do it. You have so much to offer!”

Gail Czukar, retired CEO
Helped stabilize the community mental health and addiction system by securing a base budget increase

As part of AMHO’s Where Change Happens election advocacy campaign, we pushed for base budget increases that recognized the need to provide support to the community mental health and addictions sector after years of increasing costs and no increases in funding. For 2018/2019, the provincial government provided an across-the-board increase to community mental health and addictions to help sustain service levels.

Advocated for investments Where Change Happens – securing mental health and addiction as a key election issue

The Ontario election was held on June 7, 2018. AMHO proposed a four-point plan for mental health and addictions, and together with our members engaged all major parties in pre-election advocacy. For the first time in provincial history, each party made a major commitment to new investments. Ontario’s PCs promised to work with AMHO and our partners to build a stronger system and allocate $3.8 billion over 10 years for mental health, addiction and housing supports.

Welcomed our largest conference to date

Over 450 delegates, speakers and exhibitors joined us for Where Change Happens, the 6th Annual Addictions and Mental Health Conference, making this our biggest one yet! Attendees from across the province and across the addiction and mental health sector gathered for three days of learning, networking and growing.

Congratulations to Joan Edwards-Karmazyn from CMHA Muskoka-Parry Sound for winning the 2018 President’s Shield Award! Her role in the system has spanned governance, policy, lived experience, family experience, peer support, leadership and direct-service.

AMHO’s Four Point Plan for Better Mental Health and Addictions Services

- Improve access to services by keeping good people.
- Plan better services by collecting better data.
- Help more people in the community by hiring more people.
- Enable more recovery by providing more safe spaces.

Left: Joan Edwards-Karmazyn, 2018 President’s Shield Award Winner Right: Having fun with the Twitter sign at the Conference.

Left: Doug Ford at Durham Mental Health Services. Middle: Gail Czukar and Kathleen Wynne at AMHO. Right: Andrea Horwath and Paul Niesink at Community Addiction Services of Niagara.
Encouraged governments to put health first with cannabis legalization

AMHO has provided a number of responses and recommendations to the Ontario government on the legalization of cannabis. We advocated that part of cannabis-related revenue should be allocated to build capacity in the addiction service system. We are happy to see our recommendations around age, public education and road safety integrated into policy. We will continue this work with the government as they move forward with cannabis legalization to ensure an approach that minimizes harms and puts health first, particularly when it comes to youth.

Made the case for quickly expanding community based addiction treatment for those with opioid use disorder

In the spring of 2017, AMHO submitted the Proposal for Community Based Treatment Model for Opioid Use Disorder, which recommended increased funding in specialized community based treatment models for opioid use disorder. In the summer of 2017, Ontario’s Strategy to Prevent Opioid Addiction and Overdose responded to this call by allocating $222 million in new investments, over three years, to services including harm reduction, withdrawal management, pain clinic programs, crisis services, Rapid Access Addiction Medicine (RAAM) clinics and needle exchange and supervised injection sites. More than 60 addictions service providers benefited from this new investment, with the largest portion of funding going to community agencies.

Called for continued government support for supervised consumption services

AMHO advocated for the importance of supervised consumption sites and overdose prevention sites as essential harm reduction services necessary for combating the opioid crisis. AMHO developed an evidence-based submission as well as participated in consultation with the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care, calling for the continued support of the provincial government.

Understanding Vocational and Educational Programs

Employment and education are important factors that influence recovery for people with mental health and addiction issues. To better understand vocational and educational program availability, approaches and effectiveness in Ontario, AMHO worked to analyze mental health V&E services across the province. AMHO created an inventory of 38 vocational and educational services in Ontario that provides examples to guide future program development.
Supporting and promoting quality improvement

The Excellence Through Quality Improvement Project (E-QIP) is an initiative to build quality improvement (QI) capacity and infrastructure within Ontario's community-based mental health and addiction sector, specifically to assist service providers in increasing their capacity and motivation to implement QI initiatives. Through a variety of training programs, coaching support and an online community, E-QIP has supported service providers in building skills and QI mechanisms to assure they are providing the best possible services to improve health outcomes and maximize return on investment. Since March 2016, E-QIP has trained over 3,000 people and provided coaching support to almost 100 organizations.

Shared Promising Practices in Supportive Housing

In the spring of 2018, AMHO launched Promising Practices: 12 Case Studies in Supportive Housing for People with Mental Health and Addiction Issues. AMHO completed this project in partnership with CMHA Ontario and the Wellesley Institute. In this resource guide, service providers, funders, and system planners can read about three main areas for system reform and review examples of twelve innovative practices. This guide is available on an easy to navigate webpage along with shared resources and contact information from each of the providers. Since its launch, Promising Practices has been presented at 3 large conferences and its webpage is one of AMHO's most visited. Read it at amho.ca/promising-practices.

Transforming leadership in the community mental health and addiction sector

AMHO is proud to have secured funding for and launched, with our partners at CMHA Ontario, AOHC, OCSA and AFTHO, a multi-year leadership initiative for community and primary healthcare. LeaderShift will give our current and emerging leaders the opportunity to develop their skills, advance their careers, and join a network of their peers from the broader community and primary healthcare sectors. By the end of 2018, over 50 leaders from AMHO member agencies will have participated in the LEADS Learning Series.

Kim and Shivani taking part in a LEADS Learning Series training.
Grew our voice in the news and social media

Increased awareness of our policy work and issues in our sector with coverage in the Toronto Star, The Globe and Mail, CP24, CTV, theZoomer, Ottawa Citizen and CBC news.

AMHO successfully launched a new website showcasing new and easier to find content, averaging over 1,500 visits per month. The past year also saw a growth in our online audience by almost 1,000 to 2,750 combined followers on Facebook, Twitter and newsletter subscribers.

AMHO Member Benefits

AMHO supports members to deliver stronger services and strengthen Ontario’s mental health and addiction system.

As an AMHO member, you benefit from:

- **Up to date information and resources** for the community mental health and addictions sector, including analysis on provincial issues.
- **Advocacy and government relations** work for a more comprehensive and accessible system of addiction and mental health care - including toolkits and templates for your agency to engage with politicians and funders.
- **Access to policy development and quality improvement** work to strengthen your capacity for improving services.
- **Education, events and networking opportunities** specifically tailored to members.
- **Comprehensive group benefits and insurance plans** available to help keep your staff healthy and safe.
- **Discount registrations** to all AMHO events.

Financial Report 2017/2018

Statement of Revenue & Expenses
for the year ended March 31, 2018

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<th>Revenue</th>
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Approved by the Board of Directors
Audited Financial Statements and the Notes to the Statements can be requested by emailing info@amho.ca.
About AMHO

AMHO represents over 200 addiction and mental health organizations in Ontario. Our members provide services and supports that help Ontarians across the province with their recovery, including community-based counselling and case management, peer support and consumer-run businesses, residential treatment, withdrawal management, supportive housing and hospital-based programs.

As the collective voice of our members, we provide leadership and engage partners to build a comprehensive and accessible system of addiction and mental health care, and improve the well-being of individuals, families and communities in Ontario. We do this through policy work, advocacy initiatives, service development, knowledge exchange, education offerings and quality improvement work.

Contact Us

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Toronto, ON  M5G 1Z8
Phone: 416-490-8900
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info@amho.ca

Let’s Get Social

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twitter.com/AMHOnt

AMHO thanks each of our members for their ongoing engagement and support. We gratefully acknowledge the financial support of the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care.