

URGENT!
The need for advocacy continues...
May 2009...

To Individuals and Organizations in Huron & Perth
A CALL TO ACTION – JOIN THE COALITION TO SECURE
INPATIENT CARE FOR OUR KIDS!

Re: SERVICE GAP –

Acute care mental health beds for children and youth in Huron and Perth Counties

With the support of John Wilkinson – MPP for Perth–Middlesex and Carol Mitchell – MPP for Huron-Bruce, local stakeholders are asking individuals and groups to acknowledge this to be an unresolved problem, support the proposed solution and endorse that resolution of this concern should be a matter of priority.

The nature of the problem NO ACUTE CARE BEDS FOR CHILDREN & YOUTH - Unfortunately since 1971 children within Huron and Perth who are experiencing acute mental health concerns have not had access to dedicated child and adolescent mental health inpatient beds to treat them when in crisis. This is a serious gap in health care is evident in our counties and immediate action is required.

The proposed solution – 3 BED UNIT LOCATED AT STRATFORD GENERAL HOSPITAL - A solution has been developed locally to address this serious gap. Service providers within Huron and Perth have collaborated on a proposal for 3 dedicated child and adolescent mental health inpatient beds to be located at the Stratford General Hospital site. This inpatient unit will provide crisis/emergency response, stabilization and brief treatment for children and youth with a serious mental health problem requiring hospital based intervention. **Community-based children's mental health services of the Huron-Perth Centre will work closely with this inpatient unit to ensure continuity of care back to the community.**

A Matter of Priority - One in five children in Ontario has a mental health problem. Today in Huron and Perth it is estimated that 3,800 children are dealing with a mental health problem, 85 of whom will require acute inpatient care that is currently unavailable. As of May 2007 Huron Perth and Bruce Grey counties remain the only counties in the province to be without access to acute inpatient psychiatric care for children and youth up to the age of 16 years!

ROUND THREE Please be advised that your signatures will be included with all letters of support will be added to those received in 2007 and 2008 and shared with your MPPs and the South West Local Integration Health Network. Your help in this effort is important!

Penny Cardno, Coalition Co-Chair
Program Director Mental Health Services

Terri Sparling, Coalition Co-Chair
CEO for HPC

