

Terms of Reference

DSB ONTARIO NORTH EAST Mental Health and Addictions Steering Committee

PREAMBLE

District School Board Ontario North East is committed to building capacity related to supporting positive student mental health. The intention of the DSB Ontario North East Mental Health and Addiction (MHAA) Steering Committee is to develop a Mental Health Strategy that aligns with overall board goals and the provincial *Open Minds, Healthy Minds* initiative.

Based on the World Health Organization, “Mental Health refers to a broad array of activities directly or indirectly related to the mental well-being component included in the WHO's definition of health: ‘A state of complete physical, mental and social well-being, and not merely the absence of disease’. It is related to the promotion of well-being, the prevention of mental disorders, and the treatment and rehabilitation of people affected by mental disorders.”
[http://www.who.int/topics/mental_health/en/]

It is estimated that one in five students in Canada struggle with a mental health problem that interferes with their day to day functioning. Lack of knowledge about mental health, the stigma held toward mental illness and difficulties in accessing services are three of the major barriers to having mentally healthy children and youth. Schools provide the optimal setting in which to reduce stigma, promote positive mental health, build student social-emotional learning skills, prevent mental illness, identify students in need and build pathways to care.

VISION

DSB Ontario North East believes that mental health is key to student success and well-being.

MISSION

Together we create safe, inclusive, caring and supportive environments that enhance as well as promote mental health and well-being.

VALUES

Respect
Equity and Inclusivity
Integrity
Accountability
Partnership

STEERING COMMITTEE

Proposed Purpose

The DSB Ontario North East Mental Health and Addictions (MHAA) Steering Committee provides the overall strategic direction for the board. Additionally, it provides leadership, expertise and guidance for the Mental Health Leader. The goal of the committee is to advocate, create and implement policies that promote and support positive mental health.

Proposed Objectives

The primary objectives of the MHAA Steering Committee include:

Provides Strategic Direction

- Provides strategic direction to the Mental Health Leader that supports capacity building and sustainability around positive mental health
- Recommends annual work plans which identify key priorities, performance measurements, timelines, and expected outcomes ensuring alignment with MHAA strategic directions.
- Recommends an annual communication plan for the MHAA initiative
- Establishes Ad Hoc Committees as required to achieve the objectives of the MHAA Steering Committee
- Conducts an annual review of the MHAA Steering Committee Terms of Reference

Fosters Partnerships and Collaboration

- Links individuals and groups within the Board with an interest in and/or a commitment to positive mental health as well as the prevention of mental illness and addictions
- Promotes collaborative partnerships within and across community sectors
- Ensures member accountabilities are met
- Refers action items and issues of importance to the appropriate committees and/or agencies for attention and follow-up

Advocates for mental health policy development

- Models healthy mental health policy during all MHAA meetings and activities

- Provides sector support during the implementation of annual work plans
- Identifies opportunities for advocacy and promotion of mental health policy development

Proposed Membership

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| Jo-Anne Plaunt | Superintendent of Schools |
| Denise Plante-Dupuis | Mental Health Leader |
| Joanne Marsh-Peters | District Special Education Resource Teacher / Parent |
| Sabrina Swann | District Social Worker and ABA Coordinator |
| Paul Langis | Secondary School Principal |
| Lynn McNaughton | Vice-Principal Student Success and Curriculum – Elementary School |
| Susi Johanson | Secondary School Principal / Parent |
| Keri Shepherdson | Elementary School Principal / Equity and Inclusivity / Parent |
| Jamie Davey | Aboriginal Youth Liaison Officer |
| Sue Holmes | Human Resources / Parent |
| Lana Kershaw | Child and Youth Worker |
| Dennis Draves | Trustee |