

April 2016

## Mental Health and Addictions Peer Support/Consumer Survivor Initiatives Update

South West Local Health Integration Network (LHIN) staff are continuing to work with all of the Consumer Support Initiatives (CSIs) in the South West LHIN (six LHIN-funded and one non-LHIN funded), to facilitate stakeholder engagement in future planning, with a focus on enhancing peer support at the sub-region level. The five sub-regions are Grey Bruce, Huron Perth, London Middlesex, Oxford and Elgin.

The engagement includes:

- Validating the current state of peer support services in each community,
- Building on information collected during the creation of the "*Development of a Peer Support Strategy for the South West LHIN*" document,
- Understanding existing gaps, and
- Identifying opportunities to further integrate peer support into the mental health and addictions system.

One to one consultations validating the current state of services in each sub-region are now complete. Thank you to the board and staff members from each CSI who participated in these consultations and provided valuable insight, perspectives and strategies for strengthening peer support services in their communities.

A meeting of the London-Middlesex stakeholders (as the identified Phase 1 community) was held on March 22, 2016. Representatives from Can-Voice, CMHA London Middlesex, Addiction Services Thames Valley and CONNECT for Mental Health met to confirm the current state of services. This group will continue to meet monthly to identify integration opportunities, decision-making and implementation strategies.

### Next Steps

**A webinar for all CSI/Peer Support providers in the South West LHIN will be held on April 21, 2016 from 1:00 – 2:00 pm.**

An update on the work to date and next steps will be provided during the webinar. Webinar registration and an agenda will be distributed in the coming weeks.

Thank you for your continued commitment to working together to strengthen peer support across the South West LHIN.