

All-Party Committee on Mental Health and Addictions

Terms of Reference

Mandate

The All-Party Committee on Mental Health and Addictions was established as a result of a private members' motion raised and supported by all members of the House of Assembly on January 21, 2015. The all-party committee will review the provincial mental health care system with the goal of improving mental health programs and services to better serve the needs of residents in Newfoundland and Labrador. The committee will consist of Honourable Members from all parties of the House of Assembly.

Purpose

1. To review the current state of provincial mental health and addictions services;
2. To receive expert testimony on best practices in mental health care delivery;
3. To consult, review, understand and make recommendations; and,
4. To report its findings in the House of Assembly with the goal of improving mental health and addictions programs and services in the province.

Key Principles

- Collaborative: All parties will follow generally accepted rules of collaborative work such as respect, active listening, tolerance of differing views, etc.
- Consensus-seeking: Although consensus may not be possible on all points, best efforts will be made to reach consensus on as many key points as possible with the ultimate goal of presenting a consensus report.
- Open and transparent: Feedback received throughout the consultation process will be made publicly available as soon as possible after each session.
- Accountable: The committee commits to respond to all major points made or ideas proposed by the participants, even if they disagree with or are not supportive of them.
- Accurate and thorough: Best efforts will be made to capture the views of all those interested in the topic; analysis and summary efforts will strive to keep the 'voice' of the presenters intact.
- Shared learning: All involved understand that this is a complex topic and that there is always more to learn about it; they accept that they can learn from both the public and one another.

Membership

Minister of Health and Community Services, Chair
Minister from Social Policy Committee, acts as alternate to Chair
2 Provincial Government MHAs
2 Official Opposition MHAs
1 Third Party MHA

Alternates

- 1 Government MHA
- 1 Official Opposition MHA
- 1 Third Party MHA

Meetings

Business / debrief meetings will be scheduled bi-weekly.

Role of Chair

The chair will convene and manage committee meetings in accordance with the terms of reference, and will facilitate requests made by committee members in collaboration with the secretariat.

Role of Secretariat

The secretariat will ensure that the integrity of data generation is maintained, and that logistical requirements are always in place. Secretariat support will be provided by the Department of Health and Community Services and the Office of Public Engagement.

Voting

Decisions are made by consensus. If consensus is not possible, majority voice voting is used with the minority view documented.

Timeline & Committee Wrap-up

The committee will convene from the day of official announcement to when the final recommendations are tabled in the House of Assembly. Committee will dissolve upon submission of recommendations in the House of Assembly.

Travel and Accommodations

Travel, accommodations and per diems will be reimbursed as per Government of Newfoundland and Labrador's travel policy.

Updated: April 2015