

Mental Health and Addictions Care in Ontario: Toward a High Performing System

Dr. Catherine Zahn



Dr. Zahn is President and CEO of CAMH, Canada's leading mental health hospital. She received her MD from the University of Toronto (U of T) and is a Professor in the U of T Faculty of Medicine. Recent recognition includes appointment as a Member of the Order of Canada and Doctor of Laws degrees (honoris causa) from Western University and Ryerson University. She has made numerous contributions to healthcare in Ontario through leadership in hospital integration, technology assessment and chronic disease management. She is a champion for integration of psychiatry and neuroscience, passionately working to steer mental health into the mainstream of healthcare.

Pat Capponi



Pat Capponi, a psychiatric survivor with lived experience of poverty, has been an active and engaged advocate for improved mental health care as well as poverty issues for well over three decades. After serving on the Advisory Committee to the Mayor's Action Task Force on Discharged Psychiatric Patients, Pat became a founding board member of the Gerstein Centre, and later went on to work on the Saving Lives Implementation Group co-chaired by Police Chief Bill Blair. Pat was also appointed to the Mental Health and Addictions Leadership Advisory Council by the Minister of Health. She is the author of seven books and has received the Order of Canada, the Order of Ontario and the Queen's Jubilee and the Diamond Jubilee medals as well as the C.M. Hinks award from CMHA.

Paul Kurdyak



Dr. Paul Kurdyak is Director of Health Outcomes and Performance Evaluation (HOPE) Research Unit at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health and the Lead of the Mental Health and Addiction Program at the Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences. He is an Advisor to the Ministry of Health and Long-term Care and Health Quality Ontario on mental health system performance evaluation.

Sharon Lee Smith



Sharon Lee Smith has been Associate Deputy Minister, Policy and Transformation, since February 2015. Sharon Lee is a public sector executive with more than 20 years of experience at both federal and provincial levels. Sharon Lee served most recently as an Assistant Deputy Minister in the health ministry of the Government of Saskatchewan. In this role, she was responsible for public health, mental health and addictions, long-term care and primary health care. Prior to joining the Ministry of Health in Saskatchewan, Sharon Lee worked at the federal level in Aboriginal Health, International Environmental Negotiations and in economic development. In 2013, she received the Lieutenant Governor's Gold Medal Award of Excellence for Public Administration.

Susan Pigott



Susan Pigott has enjoyed a 35 year long career in health and social services. Trained as a nurse at the Wellesley Hospital in Toronto, Susan also has a B.A. from the University of Western Ontario and a M.S.W from the University of Toronto. She was a front line nurse in emergency medicine and mental health for 10 years. In 2013 she stepped down from her position as Vice President of Communication and Community Engagement at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health. Since then, she has also accepted a three year political appointment as the Chair of the Ontario Government's Mental Health and Addictions Leadership Advisory Council as well as a one year assignment as a member of Citizenship and Immigration Canada's new

Advisory Committee on Social Innovation.