

Communication from the SRS and Trans Health Policy Group

The SRS and Trans Health Policy Group has been consulting with the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC) regarding access to health care for trans* people in Ontario.

The group consists of senior managers at Sherbourne Health Centre (SHC), the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH), and leaders/clinicians from Toronto's trans communities. They have worked together for over 18 months to examine healthcare access and equity issues affecting trans people and to offer recommendations to Ontario's Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care.

The Ministry has committed to bringing forward several initiatives to improve access to needed services for trans people in Ontario and to build greater capacity among health care providers to serve this population. More details will be available in the near future, including funding associated with these initiatives.

Proposed Initiatives:

1. A. A target of three more Assessors for OHIP-funded SRS surgery by next spring.
- B. A planned slow and steady increase in the number of places where assessment will be offered in addition to the CAMH Gender Identity Clinic.
- C. Alignment of SRS Assessments with the World Professional Association for Transgender Health (WPATH) standards of care as a minimum criteria.
2. Additional funding for education and training in primary care centres to build capacity to deliver high quality, culturally competent health care to the trans community, e.g.: including hormone therapy.
3. Funds to evaluate the two initiatives referred to above (more assessors, greater capacity in primary health care)
4. The Policy Group who developed these proposals will meet with MOHLTC three times before the end of the fiscal year (Spring 2011) to monitor implementation of these proposals.

* Trans refers to people who self identify as transsexual, transgender, two-spirit, gender queer etc.

