



Addiction & Mental Health Services | services de lutte contre les dépendances et de santé mentale
Kingston Frontenac Lennox & Addington



Joint News Release

For Immediate Release

December 17, 2020

Addiction and Mental Health Services Partner with Frontenac OPP to Support Rural Communities

This spring, Addiction and Mental Health Services of Kingston, Frontenac, Lennox and Addington (AMHS-KFLA) launched an innovative, collaborative program with the Frontenac Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) to better serve persons suffering with mental health and addiction issues in the Frontenac area. Rural residents in Frontenac can access collaborative support from policing and mental health support services.

Experienced mental health staff at AMHS-KFLA are now partnering with the Frontenac OPP Detachment to respond to emergency and non-emergency mental health calls in the community. Staff are embedded at the detachment and a Rural Mobile Crisis Response Team (MCRT)/Transitional Case Manager may ride along or be dispatched to attend to calls with a mental health component alongside officers.

This service was launched briefly in March 2020, but delivery was modified to a referral basis due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We are pleased to have restarted the program to operate at full capacity in September 2020.

Together, the team will stabilize the situation, assess the individual's needs and determine the supports and services in their community that they would benefit from, rather than taking them to a hospital emergency department.

The goals of police partnerships with mental health services are to support reductions in the number of mental health apprehensions and reduce the number of police hours spent in the emergency department as well as diverting individuals from emergency services and connecting them to community-based supports.

This program supplements AMHS-KFLA's other police partnerships currently in place with Kingston Police and Lennox & Addington OPP to enhance the quality of service provided to persons in crisis and provides increased service access and connections to rural residents in KFLA.

To date, more than 90 individuals have been supported using the collaborative model in Frontenac.



Addiction & Mental Health Services | services de lutte contre les dépendances et de santé mentale
Kingston Frontenac Lennox & Addington



Quotations

“As an organization, we now have in place a third partnership with local policing partners to enhance the care provided to individuals in need of support who come in contact with police. We are excited to be able to bring this type of innovative and integrated care to our rural communities, and better connect individuals to care across our region.”

- Julie Lambert,
Program Manager
AMHS-KFLA

“I am very pleased to welcome the Rural MCRT/ Transitional Case Manager to Frontenac Detachment. The collaboration with AMHS-KFLA will enhance the response to people suffering from addiction or mental health issues. This allows for more timely access to supports while reducing the need for police involvement. A more care-centred approach will benefit those who need assistance.

- Staff Sergeant Sharron Brown,
Detachment Commander
Frontenac OPP

MEDIA CONTACTS

OPP

PC Curtis Dick
Frontenac OPP
613-372-1932

AMHS-KFLA

Terra Smith, Communications Coordinator
media@amhs-kfla.ca | 613-544-1148
www.amhs-kfla.ca

Connect with us:



AMHS-KFLA 24-Hour Crisis Line

Kingston & Frontenac: 613-544-4229
Lennox & Addington: 613-354-7388

AMHS-KFLA is a non-profit organization delivering community-based mental health, addiction and housing services to nearly 7,000 individuals in the City of Kingston and the counties of Frontenac and Lennox and Addington. Quality services are provided with dignity, hope and in confidence. Learn more about services at www.amhs-kfla.ca.