



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Investing in Mental Health Where It Matters

A unique partnership between the Central Lambton Family Health Team and St. Clair Child and Youth Services aims to increase supports to address the mental health needs of children, youth, and families in the surrounding area. The two organizations are familiar with one another, having worked together over the past three years to offer Child and Youth Mental Health Clinics at the Central Lambton Family Health Team offices in Petrolia.

In collaboration with St. Clair Child and Youth Services as the lead agency for child and youth mental health in Lambton County, the Central Lambton Family Health Team has committed to an investment of funds that will see an expansion in clinical supports offered to children, youth, and families in the area directly onsite at the health team. This new partnership in response to an overwhelming need identified by the community, offering timely supports that will provide a range of therapeutic services ranging from urgent response to short-term mental health workshops. This investment not only increases the local capacity to deliver quality mental health services but also enhances linkages to other supports to the residents of rural Lambton County.

Sarah Milner, Executive Director of the CLFHT said, "Primary care is often the first contact for youth and families struggling with mental health concerns. In order to better address the needs, funding has been restructured to focus on targeting this priority area. We are excited to be working in partnership with St. Clair Child and Youth Services through this innovative partnership. Having specialized support available directly within the care team will be of tremendous benefit to patients and their families."

"We see this as an opportunity to bring additional mental health supports to the community of Petrolia and surrounding areas in a way that is responsive and timely. We have expertise in the area of children and youth mental health and have been fortunate to partner with the CL FHT in

a way that can best meet the needs of the community” Teri Thomas-Vanos, Director of Clinical Services, St. Clair & Youth Services.

To find out more about the services available or to access mental health supports, please contact the Central Lambton Family Health Team at (519)882-2500 or online at www.centrallambtonfamilyhealthteam.com/

Media follow up inquiries should be directed to:

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