

BRIGHT LIGHTS AWARDS

2023

Nomination: 4. Embedding mental health and home care in primary care

Algonquin Family Health Team

Eating Disorders Algonquin FHT - Comprehensive Mental Health, Nutrition and Primary Care



There is a lack of support for patients in Muskoka with eating disorders and disordered eating, in order to help prevent hospitalization and to support patients upon discharge from hospital. Algonquin Family Health Team is well positioned to collaborate with regional partners on implementation of local programming. Due to an increase in referrals from primary care providers to Algonquin Registered Dietitian and Mental Health Services, and long wait times for existing programs, we have identified a need for a FHT Eating Disorder/Disordered Eating program to serve patients in Muskoka. This program will be developed in collaboration with the Regional Young Adult (15-25) Outpatient Eating Disorder Program Stakeholder Group which includes partners from Orillia Soldiers Memorial Hospital (OSMH), Royal Victoria Regional Health Centre (RVH), Waypoint, and several others. The program would support a future joint endeavor with Cottage Country Family Health Team, with whom Algonquin Family Health Team enjoys a collaborative and mutually beneficial partnership, evidenced by the success of multiple joint programs and services. If capacity allows, the Eating Disorder program would also be made available to non-rostered patients throughout Muskoka, and promoted to the members of the Muskoka and Area Ontario Health Team.