



A Mobile Approach to CYAC Programming



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PRESENTATION BY

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- ▶ **History**
- ▶ **Immerging Issues: Barriers to Service Access**
- ▶ **A Mobile Delivery Approach**
- ▶ **COVID-19 Implications**
- ▶ **Funding**
- ▶ **Mobile Delivery Tools**
 - ▶ **Portable Interviewing Equipment**
 - ▶ **Accredited Facility Dogs**



The Child & Youth Advocacy Centre Simcoe Muskoka (CYACSM)

The Child & Youth Advocacy Centre opened in 2014 in Orillia; followed by the opening of our second location in Barrie in 2017 to better support families in Southern Simcoe County.

To date the Centre has facilitated nearly 1600 interviews.

2017-2019: the number of forensic interviews facilitated at the CYACSM increased 255%

On average the CYACSM employs 3 fulltime Advocates.



Immerging Barriers to Service Access

GEOGRAPHY

- ▶ The region of Simcoe Muskoka is geographically diverse & wide spread; spanning over 8,700 km²
- ▶ Travel time/ access to transportation for clients and our Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) identified as a barrier to service access

INCREASE IN INTERVIEWS

- ▶ Interviews facilitated at the CYACSM were increasing at a constant pace
- ▶ Many more clients were needing service; we needed to ensure all child/youth forensic interviews in our region could be supported and facilitated by our team
- ▶ Investigations were becoming needed in more widespread areas around our region



Response to Immerging Issues: A Mobile Delivery Approach

- ▶ During investigations; mobile, on-site multi-disciplinary teams comprised of *Ontario Provincial Police*, *CYACSM* and *Simcoe Muskoka Family Connexions* (regional Children's Aid Society) professionals will be deployed to meet families in their home communities.
- ▶ There is no change to the core Advocate program; it is simply available beyond our two physical locations. Bringing our services to the clients, as well as our MDT partners.
- ▶ Additionally, one of our fully-accredited Facility Canines are deployed along side an Advocate who is equipped with high quality portable forensic interviewing equipment.

- ▶ Community Centered
- ▶ Provides a safe and familiar surrounding closer to the child/youth's home
- ▶ Reduces transportation barriers for both the family and MDT partners
- ▶ Aids in more timely MDT collaboration
- ▶ Cost effective



COVID-19: A Mobile Delivery Approach

- ▶ Mobile Approach was in development prior to COVID-19 onset to help support the identified needs previously highlighted.
- ▶ COVID-19 created urgency in the final roll out of the new program adaptation.
- ▶ Providing core Advocate Program support in the home community for children & families became more urgent during the pandemic
 - ▶ Less access to transportation
 - ▶ Government and health guidelines recommending staying local
 - ▶ Increased emotional apprehensions
- ▶ Reducing travel across communities for both MDT and families greatly supported new relationships in our South Simcoe and Muskoka Regions (polar ends of our region)

“ This will directly benefit children and youth who use the service and will be a benefit to our investigations. We look forward to this new opportunity.”

- Detective Sergeant Sarah Vance, Nottawasaga OPP Crime Unit.





From left to right: Leslie Raymond and Jocelyn Konidela, Child & Youth Advocates for the CYAC, service dog Beacon, Nottawasaga Detachment A/D/Sgt. Vance, and Detachment Commander Inspector Steve Rideout.
Supplied photo NEWS RELEASE ONTARIO PROVINCIAL POLICE

orilliamatters.com



Funding



December 2019, Town of Blue Mountains, in Service Agreement with CYACSM applied for a Proceeds of Crime Grant (2020-2023) to put the Mobile Delivery Approach into Action

- ▶ Vehicle and related costs
- ▶ 1 FTE Advocate
- ▶ Training & Coordination for MDT and community partners
- ▶ Portable high quality recording equipment
- ▶ Fully-accredited Facility Dog dedicated to the Mobile Unit
- ▶ Communication & awareness materials as well as project administration cost



Safe, child/youth friendly spaces have been secured in communities throughout our geographically widespread region:

- ▶ Town of Blue Mountains
 - ▶ Collingwood
 - ▶ Wasaga beach
 - ▶ Midland
 - ▶ Bracebridge
 - ▶ Alliston
 - ▶ Bond Head
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- ▶ Library
 - ▶ Town Hall/Municipal owned building spaces
 - ▶ Community Health Hub which has a variety of rooms
 - ▶ Arena
 - ▶ Social services & community organization offices



CASE CRACKER



Portable Interviewing Equipment





C.O.P.E. Service Dogs



Moose & Beacon help to create feelings of safety and calm for children, youth and families while at our Centres. They provide emotional and relaxation support, as well as deep pressure therapy. Helping calm emotions can help children, youth and all of us think better and feel better!

Questions



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