



NIAGARA YOUTH COURT SCREENING INITIATIVE (NYCSI)

camhPSSP
Provincial System
Support Program

A coordinated, community-led response to provide better services and supports to justice-involved youth with mental health and addictions (MH&A) needs.

Gaps & Issues

- Fragmentation of services (particularly across sectors)
- MH&A screening (youth not being identified)
- Legislation gaps (no dedicated youth court contravenes Youth Criminal Justice Act)
- System knowledge gaps (providers unaware of existing services)
- System navigation challenges
- System inefficiencies (geographical work locations)
- Data gaps

Key Elements

- Community-driven
- Collaborative planning and decision-making
- Cross-sector representation
- Early identification of MH&A needs
- System-level change
- Shared goals
- Shared data
- Clear service pathways
- Grounded in health equity principles
- Evidence-based (MAYSI-2 screening tool)
- Ongoing quality improvement

Outcomes & Benefits

- Youth with MH&A needs identified earlier, more consistently
- More streamlined court processes
- Better resource optimization
- Improved transitions between sectors
- Enhanced system navigation
- Improved community collaboration
- Enhanced access to appropriate services
- Scalable to other communities
- Data on needs of justice-involved youth to support quality improvement, planning, decision-making