SickKids® | Garry Hurvitz Centre for Community Mental Health

2025-2026 Annual Report

Land acknowledgement

This is the traditional territory of the Mississaugas of the Credit, the Anishinaabeg, the Chippewa, the Haudenosaunee and the Wendat Peoples and it is home today to many diverse First Nations, Inuit and Métis people.

We acknowledge that this land was occupied over time by settlers and by peoples who were enslaved and not willing or intentional participants in the occupation and who were themselves displaced from their homelands.

We commit to hearing the stories of our country's first peoples, to educating ourselves about our country's history with First Nations, Inuit and Métis people and to understanding the cross-generational impact of that history on their families, communities and cultures.

We commit to incorporating our learning into our practice as an organization providing child and youth mental health services.

Contents

2 Land acknowledgement
4 From our Board Chair and Executive Director
5 Senior leadership updates
6 What we do
8 What we offer
8 Our partners and collaborators
9 Strategy 2030
10 Advance quality in community mental health and prevention services
18 Foster mental health system transformation
22 Strengthen our foundations
30 From our SickKids CCMH Learning Institute leadership
34 Financial summary

From our Board Chair and Executive Director

At The Garry Hurvitz Centre for Community Mental Health at SickKids (GH-CCMH), 2025-26 was a big year. Neill announced his retirement, and as we prepare this report, our Clinical Director Shannon Greene is ready to step into the role of Executive Director. The timing of this change is perfect as GH-CCMH launches its Strategy 2030 with a mission to deliver evidence-driven, partner-enabled, equitable mental health services to our clients and participants, and to their families and caregivers in their communities.

This year's annual report highlights the early impact of this plan. In doing so it tells the story of a committed, engaged staff team bringing energy, creativity and compassion to everything they do. The report also includes testimonials from several clients, participants and family members who share their experience of the difference GH-CCMH has made in their lives.

Our thanks to our staff, to our partners and funders, to our donors who support us so generously and to our Trustees for all they do.

Together, all of these make GH-CCMH a terrific place to work. As you will read, they are also helping GH-CCMH take its place as a unique and critical part of the larger system of care in Toronto working alongside our child and youth mental health sector, education, acute and tertiary care and community partners.

Finally, thank you to our clients, participants and families for entrusting us with your care – it is our privilege to serve you.

Jeff Mainland
Board Chair

On behalf of the
Board of Trustees

Neill Carson
Executive Director

On behalf of the
leadership team

Senior leadership updates

Welcome to our incoming Executive Director, Shannon Greene

We are excited to welcome Shannon Greene to the role of Executive Director.

Formerly our Clinical Director, Client and Participant Services, Shannon is a registered social worker with a Master of Social Work and more than 25 years of clinical and progressive leadership experience in mental health and addication services across community, hospital, and government settings.

Shannon is looking forward to working alongside staff, partners, clients, participants, and families to build on GH-CCMH's strong foundation and continue advancing innovative, integrated, and person-centred approaches to care.

Visit our website announcement to learn more about Shannon.

Thank you to our outgoing Executive Director, Neill Carson

Neill Carson joined GH-CCMH as Clinical Director and Site Lead in 2017 shortly after it became a subsidiary of The Hospital for Sick Children (SickKids). He became Executive Director (ED) in the fall of 2022.

Neill led GH-CCMH through many accomplishments during his tenure as ED, including earning an Accredited with Exemplary Standing from Accreditation Canada; launching an electronic health record; and building a vision for the redevelopment of our 114 Maitland St. site. He was an advocate for the importance of GH-CCMH in the system of care in Toronto, leading the development of a robust set of hospital to community transition pathways with SickKids and bringing GH-CCMH into the Labatt Family Thriving Minds Project with SickKids and the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH).

He was a champion for inclusion and equity in our workforce and in the services we deliver. He worked hard with fellow leaders and staff to reduce wait times, increase access and advance quality, all of which he saw as core health equity concerns. Neill valued the collaborative culture at GH-CCMH and did his best to see it grow.

Staff, the Board, and hospital and community colleagues celebrated Neill at his retirement celebration on June 29, 2026, noting his warm humour and gift for storytelling.

Thank you, Neill. We are grateful for your legacy and wish you all the best in your retirement.

What we do

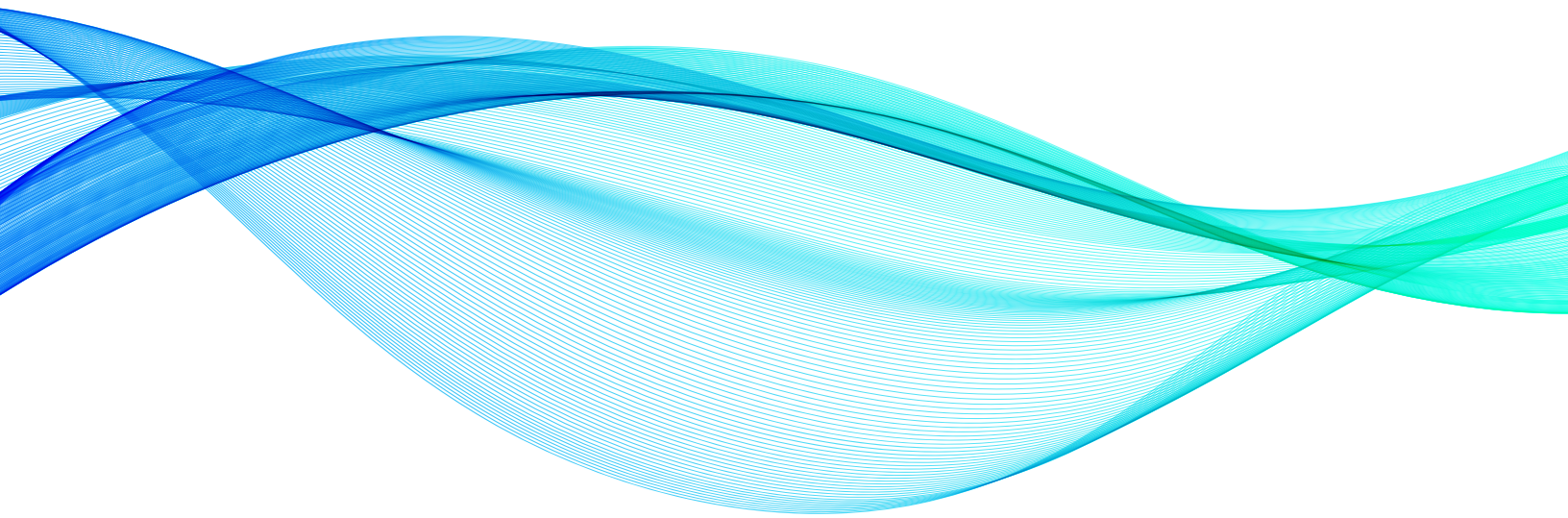
GH-CCMH is an important part of the system of care for children, youth and families facing mental health struggles in Toronto given our cross-sector partnerships combined with a broad community reach.

We provide a range of child and youth mental health services from counselling and therapy for children, youth and families to intensive, higher support services for children and youth with more serious challenges that are interfering with their lives.

We are all over the city, meeting people where they are at through our presence in schools, libraries, community and health centres, and other trusted community spaces.

We also provide prevention and early intervention services across the city in a variety of neighbourhoods such as Black Creek, Flemingdon Park, Thorncliffe Park and St. James Town. In that work, we provide barrier-reduced brief mental health support for children, youth and families who otherwise face challenges accessing formal mental health services.

At the same time, as a subsidiary of **The Hospital for Sick Children** (SickKids), we support over 100 kids a year to transition from specialized hospital services to community supports that are closer to home.



Vision

Enriching Health through Mental Health

Mission

Deliver exceptional infant, child, and youth mental health services in our communities, compelled by evidence, enabled by partnerships, and committed to equity.

Values

Compassion, Integrity, Collaboration, Inclusion, Innovation, Excellence

What we offer

- Intensive day treatment (primary and high school)
- Ambulatory individual, group and family treatment
- Psychiatric assessment, consultation and follow up
- A team approach: psychiatry, psychology, nursing, child and family therapists, occupational therapists, child and youth practitioners, teachers, early childhood educators, family home visitors
- Prevention/early intervention programs on site and in the community integrated with mental health supports in selected neighbourhoods
- Hospital to community transitions

Our partners and collaborators

- The Hospital for Sick Children (SickKids)
- Help Ahead, Strides Toronto and the Toronto sector of child and youth mental health providers
- The Labatt Family Thriving Minds Program (developed in coordination with SickKids and the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH))
- Toronto District School Board (TDSB)
- City of Toronto (EarlyON, Healthy Babies Healthy Children)
- Public Health Agency of Canada
- Centre francophone du Grand Toronto
- Native Child and Family Services of Toronto
- Caribbean African Canadian Social Services (CAFCAN)
- East Toronto Health Partners
- Health Access Thorncliffe Park – Flemingdon Health Centre
- Thorncliffe Park Youth Wellness Hub
- Unison Health and Community Services – Lawrence Heights
- Black Creek Community Health Centre (CHC)
- Flemingdon Health Centre CHC
- The St. James Town Community Corner (The Corner)

Strategy 2030

We were thrilled to introduce Strategy 2030 in October 2025. We are grateful to the clients, participants, family members, funders, trustees, staff and leadership whose voices informed this work. We built this plan on the foundation of Strategic Plan 2025 – learn more about our growth and the quality and availability of our services through our Strategic Plan 2025 Impact Report.

View Strategy 2030 and our Strategic Plan 2025 Impact Report on our Strategy & Performance page.

STRATEGY 2030: COMPELLED BY EVIDENCE, ENABLED BY PARTNERSHIPS, COMMITTED TO EQUITY

Our five-year strategy in support of Enriching Health through Mental Health

Advance quality in community mental health and prevention services

- Embed authentic engagement with clients, participants, and families in shaping the future of GH-CCMH
- Design equitable services that address social and structural determinants of health
- Elevate standards of practice by evolving an interprofessional, individualized service model
- Match mental health and community expertise to complex, emerging needs

Foster mental health system transformation

- Be a system connector to streamline access, improve transitions, and integrate services from mental health promotion to treatment
- Establish seamless reciprocal pathways and coordination between the community and hospital partners like SickKids and CAMH
- Accelerate inclusive research and evaluation, translating findings across the sector
- Secure funding for sustainability and innovation in child and youth mental health

Strengthen our foundations

- Attract, retain, and develop diverse talent
- Cultivate employee health, well-being, and psychological safety
- Co-create future spaces, infrastructure, and digital solutions

Deliver exceptional infant, child, and youth mental health services in our communities, compelled by evidence, enabled by partnerships, and committed to equity.

Compassion **Integrity** **Collaboration** **Inclusion** **Innovation** **Excellence**

Advance quality in community mental health and prevention services

- Embed authentic engagement with clients, participants, and families in shaping the future of GH-CCMH
- Design equitable services that address social and structural determinants of health
- Elevate standards of practice by evolving an interprofessional, individualized service model
- Match mental health and community expertise to complex, emerging needs

We know the importance of understanding our clients and participants. By keeping on top of changing clinical needs, collecting sociodemographic data, and breaking down inequitable barriers to traditional care, our goal is to align our model of service to better meet the needs of those we serve. We continue to seek opportunities for engagement with clients, participants and families to shape our services.

We established a clinical practice lead (CPLs) model to strengthen clinical supervision and create dedicated capacity for advancing practice across the organization. CPLs support competency development, standards of practice, measurement-based care, and continuous quality improvement, helping to ensure that children, youth, families, and participants receive consistent, evidence-informed care.

We continued to build a stronger understanding of our clients through the collection of their sociodemographic data in our electronic health record.

We continued the work of our Anti-Black Racism, Anti-Oppression and Health Equity Advisory, and adoption of Honouring Our Promise to End Anti-Black racism (HOPE) goals.

We created a new clinical practice lead for engagement and health equity as part of our new clinical practice model. This role will advance culturally responsive and equity-focused approaches across all clinical services, and fosters authentic client, participant, and community engagement.

We built an integrated early intervention and clinical pathway for children under six and their families to improve access to psychiatric and interprofessional assessment.

We completed evaluations and analyses at the program level to better understand the needs of the cohort of children and youth we presently serve.

1,334
referrals in 25-26
(34% increase from 24-25)

12%
of our new therapy clients are from our community outreach work

404
clients assessed by psychiatry in 25-26
(16% increase since 24-25)

17,469
prevention and early intervention unique contacts in 25-26

7
of our top ten neighbourhoods served are neighbourhood improvement areas*

*As defined by the City of Toronto

Our focus on quality

As an organization awarded Exemplary Standing with Accreditation Canada, we are focused on continuous quality improvement. We use data to evaluate indicators measuring outcomes, clinical flow, workplace and client safety, and client experience. We use these data to form our yearly objectives and to create measurable goals.

Advancing quality care: Case study

We evaluated the needs of youth in our intensive services with a cohort study over the last two years to lay the foundation for future programming. The findings confirmed the clinical team's observations of increasing complexity of needs among clients. In particular, the findings identified a high prevalence of neurodevelopmental disorders, concurrent substance use, and adverse experiences among ISFY clients. These findings supported the work to modify programming to better meet client needs.

A year of connection and collaboration

Connection and collaboration lead to better outcomes for our clients and participants. These stories reflect our commitment to deepen both, through our partnerships and community initiatives.

HBHC Toronto City Manager's Award for Excellence (with other HBHC providers)

Last fall, the Healthy Babies Healthy Children (HBHC) program shared in a City Manager's Award of Excellence with Toronto Public Health. The program – HBHC Family Home Visitor (FHV) Thriving and Elevating Parent Engagement – to boost parent engagement and increase home visit frequency for high-risk families during their first three months of service.

The results have been remarkable, and mean more timely support, stronger connections, and better outcomes for families navigating critical early years.

The value of this program is in the way our FHVs do their work— meeting them in their communities, speaking their languages, and understanding their lived experiences. This is community-based mental health in action.

98%
increase in the average number of monthly home visits per new client

From left: Verona, Yorda, Sandra, Cheryl, Ana, Amirtha, Alejandra and Chandra

Building Brighter Futures collaborates with The Neighbourhood Group

Building Brighter Futures (BBF) is a program offering supports for pregnant individuals, parents and caregivers with young children (birth to six years of age). Over the past year, BBF has fostered a meaningful collaboration with The Neighbourhood Group (TNG) at one of our highly attended locations in the Black Creek community. It has been encouraging to see this partnership expand, as TNG maintains a long-standing partnership with our downtown prenatal site, collectively supporting families across St. James Town and Black Creek.

From left: Catherine, Kirsten, Eun Bi (Jane & Finch EarlyON), Rosa and Maria (TNG)

In the community

Youth Outreach Workers Samantha Wright and Andile Keswa, with Supervisor Tamara Este, participated in a fair for youth probation officers to learn some of the challenges they encounter when trying to connect their youth to resources and supports in the community

Trina Rosenzweig and Cherry Cruz, Parent-Child Educators, share information about GH-CCMH programs at a health and wellness event for St. James Town families at Rose Avenue Junior Public School

Youth Outreach Worker honoured for her community work

Youth Outreach Worker Samantha Wright was recognized at the 2026 Provincial Youth Outreach Worker Program Learning Conference in February 2026 for her Girls' Group work that she co-facilitates with Flemingdon Health Centre (FHC) at Marc Garneau Collegiate.

"Samantha's knowledge of community services in the field provides a solid bridge for youth to access services they need to achieve their goals and wellness."

– Tamara Este, Samantha's supervisor

From left: YOW Andile, Samantha and Tamara (Photo courtesy of Strides Toronto)

Participant and client voices

"I don't have family here in Canada and this program has been very supportive, like the various different people that we have that take part in this program, including the public health nurse and the lactation consultant. I'm glad I did sign up for this class and decided to come here. It's made me feel more comfortable and not have me feel alone because whenever I'm here I can always talk about things, be myself and get the best words of encouragement. I will be transitioning [into the post-natal program] as I will be giving birth soon. I'm looking forward to that program as well. It's been very helpful and I'm very grateful for it." – *Rachelle Guscott, Labour of Love Prenatal class participant*

"I had two children prior to coming to this program, and I didn't know much when I joined, pregnant with my third. I got a lot of resources in the community, met new friends, and learned a whole lot of what I didn't know from public health nurses, nutritionists, and social workers. All of us have a lot of questions to ask. This program has been a lifesaver and has changed a lot of aspects around how I raise my kids, watch my kids, and I realize that they are each their own person. This program is not just for moms, but also for dads who are willing to learn more about parenting! It's a great, great program." – *Mrs. Charles, Building Brighter Futures participant*

"The support my daughter T and I received has been very helpful throughout the process. We appreciated feeling heard, supported, and guided during a difficult time. The staff and therapists were compassionate, understanding, and made us feel comfortable discussing our concerns and goals. One of the most helpful parts of the experience was having access to resources, communication, and ongoing support that helped us feel more hopeful and confident moving forward. We are grateful for the care and support we received through GH-CCMH." – *Mom of community client who is transitioning to day treatment*

"This has been a really good program for both my kid and our family. My child enjoys this program and has learned so many important skills like communication, social interaction, and sharing. The parent sessions have also been very helpful, especially on topics like stress management and healthy eating. I have learned a lot from other parents as well. We all shared our opinions. Many of them have three or four children and shared experiences and advice that we could apply to our own family." – *Puja, parent participant in Stepping Stones, a play-based program designed for children aged three to five*

From left: Cherry, Puja and Trina

Quality care that's changing lives

Erica*, *Past client, Day treatment program, Intensive Services for Youth*

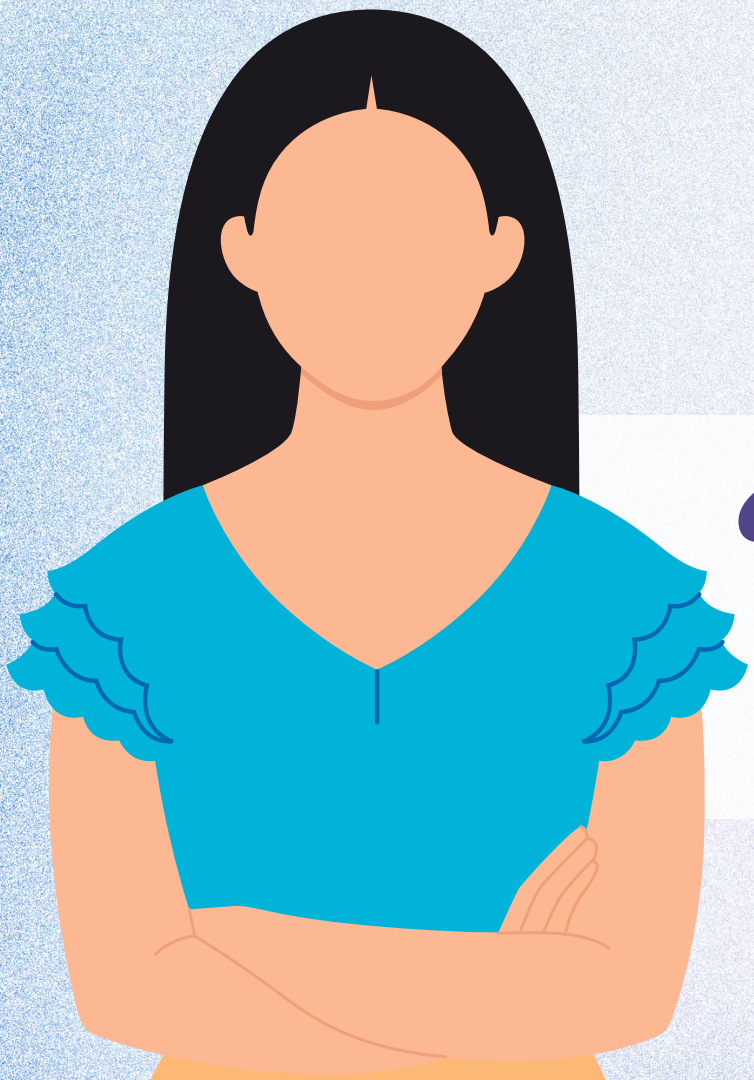
During COVID, my school went online, and I lost interest in attending classes. I fell into a deep depression. I was self-harming and tried to kill myself a few times. I dropped out of school in Grade 8 and didn't see a future for myself.

My parents tried to get me help but nothing was working. Then I joined the day treatment program at GH-CCMH at the Jarvis site for Grade 9. My therapist helped me, and focused on my parents, saying 'This is what you need to do to help her.' Child and youth care workers were always there to talk, and the teachers were very supportive. I had three periods of classes a day and a group dialectical behaviour therapy for fourth period. Staff weren't too heavy if I didn't show up but were proud of me when I did.

In my second year in the program, I moved to Jarvis Collegiate Institute (a TDSB school). It was in a school classroom, but there were maybe two or three of us in a class. Marks mattered a bit more, which helped me find purpose again – I realized if I wanted to go anywhere in life, or get the career I wanted, I needed to go to school and get good grades. The social component was important too – I connected with people going through similar things.

If I had stayed in regular high school, I would have dropped out. I'm grateful I came to day treatment and got the amount of support and encouragement I did.

I've spent time in the hospital for my mental health, but now, I'm going to be on the other side: I'm going into nursing so I can support people through their tough times.



> "I'm grateful I came to day treatment and got the support and encouragement I did."

Donna*, *Erica's mom*

When Erica came to the day treatment program, it was the first time that people approached her as a human being and not a problem to be fixed. Before, help would mean removing privileges until she complied. In this program, they talked to me about the best way to parent her and what she needed – that she needed some of her agency back, and that we needed to build trust with her. Her dad and I joined a parenting group at the Centre, to talk to parents in similar situations.

Staff understood not to put pressure on Erica to achieve academically. Their philosophy was, 'We're just here to help you.' She was in an environment with people who wanted to listen. They also understood the value of physical movement and that physical strength helps mental strength.

Before this program, Erica and I had been butting heads constantly, and we didn't see any way out. I didn't know that we could have a relationship or that she would have a future.

Now we connect at such a level. My daughter is the most incredible person I've ever met. Now when people are running away from trouble, she runs toward and says, 'What do you need?' And when she comes to sit on my bed, and talks to me, it feels like a miracle. It's hard to express what a difference this program made for us. All of our lives have changed for the better. I've got my daughter back, she's got her joy back, and that's incredible.

> "I've got my daughter back, she's got her joy back, and that's incredible."

*Name changed for privacy

Foster mental health system transformation

- Be a system connector to streamline access, improve transitions, and integrate services from mental health promotion to treatment
- Establish seamless reciprocal pathways and coordination between the community and hospital partners like SickKids and CAMH
- Accelerate inclusive research and evaluation, translating findings across the sector
- Secure funding for sustainability and innovation in child and youth mental health

Our Centre is in a unique position as a system connector, continuing to build partnerships that extend across primary care, education, acute care, and community services. Our goal is to work with our hospital and community partners to foster a seamless, evidence-based, sustainable mental health care system.

547
patients transitioned from hospital to community care as of March 31, 2026

We worked closely with The Hospital for Sick Children (SickKids) to provide bridging interventions that supported clients with complex needs to transition to community supports.

We provided rapid response transition support to children and youth with urgent needs being seen at the SickKids emergency department in partnership with SickKids, Strides and Help Ahead.

We supported Strides Toronto in their work towards Phase 2 of Help Ahead, the central point of intake for the Toronto sector, with our community partners.

The Labatt Family Thriving Minds Program

In July 2025, colleagues at The Hospital for Sick Children (SickKids), the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH) and GH-CCMH celebrated a major milestone as part of the Labatt Family Thriving Minds Program: the launch of a comprehensive mental health information hub for youth, caregivers and health-care providers.

Through our partnership with the Program, GH-CCMH implemented a navigation pilot designed to streamline access to mental health services and improve care coordination across organizations. The pilot provided families with timely guidance and support, helping them navigate complex service pathways and access the right care at the right time.

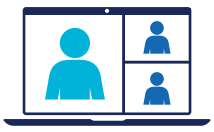
The Program also received a generous $40 million donation from the Labatt Family in March 2026 to further advance its work with children and youth across Toronto and the province.

25,000

views of Thriving Minds hub from September 2025 to March 2026

32

youth and families supported through navigation pilot between December 2025 and March 2026



3

Thriving Minds social channels launched

$40M

gift from the Labatt Family

Pathways to care

Since 2021, following the transformative gift from the Garry Hurvitz Foundation, our work in developing care pathways from hospital to community has grown steadily with ongoing support. What began with the COVID Surge Pathway now also includes the Arrell Family Mental Health Bridging Service, the Emergency Department Transition Service, and the Labatt Family Thriving Minds Program – our new collaborative effort with SickKids and CAMH. GH-CCMH also continued to grow a robust direct referral psychiatry service. Starting as a support to SickKids outpatient services, the program now receives over 70 per cent of its referrals through community primary care.

Thank you to our partners for supporting this work

- Garry Hurvitz Centre for Brain & Mental Health, SickKids
- Strides Toronto
- Ministry of Health

Thank you to our donors for driving innovation

- Garry Hurvitz Foundation
- Arrell Family Foundation
- Slaight Family Foundation
- Labatt Family

Pathways: Hospital to community transitions

2021

Gift from the Garry Hurvitz Foundation

The transformative gift catalyzes pathways from hospital to community care with the COVID Surge Pathway: a temporary service during the pandemic connecting patients from the Urgent Care Clinic at SickKids to brief psychotherapy at GH-CCMH

2023

Gifts from the Arrell Family Foundation and the Slaight Family Foundation

Two generous gifts enable expansion of pathways from hospital to community-based care

2024

March: Launch of the Arrell Family Mental Health Bridging Service (Phase 1)

Clients being discharged from unit 7A (in-patient psychiatry) at SickKids are connected with up to 12 sessions of immediate follow-up care at GH-CCMH

June: MOU for Thriving Minds

SickKids, CAMH and GH-CCMH sign a memorandum of understanding to develop a coordinated model that will streamline entry to the child and youth mental health system

July: Launch of the Emergency Department Transition Service

A dedicated tri-agency team (GH-CCMH, Strides Toronto and SickKids) connects patients seen at the SickKids Emergency Department with appropriate follow-up care at GH-CCMH or the sector more broadly via Help Ahead

2025

May: Phase 2, Arrell Family Mental Health Bridging Service

The Bridging Service expands to take referrals from other areas of the hospital

July: Launch of Thriving Minds information hub

The Thriving Minds collaborative launches a new online resource featuring referral information for 40+ specialized mental health programs for children and youth

December: Navigation pilot

Through Thriving Minds, GH-CCMH launches a navigation pilot to streamline access and improve care coordination, recruiting two staff whose work is anchored at GH-CCMH and seconded to both SickKids and CAMH

2026

March: Labatt Family gift

The Labatt Family gift donates $40 million in support of Thriving Minds program

Total client referrals as of March 31, 2026: 547

Themes we hear from caregivers and youth who transitioned from hospital to community care through the Arrell Bridging Service

Research and evaluation: Highlights

Every program area at GH-CCMH engaged in evaluation of effectiveness of their services this year.

Mood and Kids: Eating Intervention Trial (MAKE-IT): Dr. Vasudha Gidugu, Research Scientist, collaborated with Dr. Daphne Korczak at The Hospital for Sick Children on a pilot study of this diet-based intervention for youth with depression, receiving treatment in hospital and community (GH-CCMH) settings. The pilot demonstrated promise of the intervention, and Dr. Gidugu is continuing work with Dr. Korczak to pursue funding to expand work in this area.

A research article based on GH-CCMH data, co-authored by former Clinician Scientist Dr. Amanda Uliaszek, was published this year: The Impact of Covid-19 on Access and Uptake of Children and Youth Mental Health Care Services.

2025-26 marked the third year of GH-CCMH participation in the CARIBOU-2 study designed to evaluate the effectiveness of an Integrated Care Pathway (ICP) for depression among youth in community-based treatment settings. As an ICP, CARIBOU-2 combines clinical practice guidelines with a standardized process of coordination of multidisciplinary care teams and timing of treatment components, to deliver evidence-based care matched to the clinical profile of the patient. Notably, this year marked the transition from the treatment-as-usual to the intervention phase of the study – a total of six clinicians have been trained to deliver CARIBOU-2, enhancing organizational capacity to deliver evidence-based care beyond the life of the study.

Thanks to our generous donors for making our ongoing research work possible.

Strengthen our foundations

- Attract, retain, and develop diverse talent
- Cultivate employee health, well-being, and psychological safety
- Co-create future spaces, infrastructure, and digital solutions

We understand that to accomplish our strategic goals around quality care and system building, we need to make sure our foundations are strong. This means investing in our people, our infrastructure, our future spaces and our digital capacity.

Our people

We support the development and well-being of our staff. Here are some highlights:

New this year! Talent management system toolkit to support professional development

Workplace flexibility and *Disconnecting from Work* policy

Employee Assistance Plan (EAP)

Health and wellness events and webinars

See more ways we support our staff on our Careers page.

164
full-time staff

92%
retention rate

61
staff trainings completed across three programs:

26
Individual and Family Services staff completed *Concepts of Concurrent Disorders* training from CAMH

18
Prevention staff completed *Circle of Security Parenting (COSP)*

8
Intensive Services staff completed Therapeutic Crisis Intervention© training

9
Prevention staff completed *Dad Central: My Dad Matters* training

Recruiting, onboarding and training

Recruiting: Latonya, Lisa and Larabia at a Toronto Metropolitan University career fair

Onboarding: New staff and students attend the bi-annual staff orientation

Training: Intensive Services attend their first annual team retreat at The 519! The day comprised of a team training – *Emotional regulation: Fostering communication and trust in the workplace* – led by Karen BK Chan

Training: The Prevention and Early Intervention team gather for a cultural humility training at Downsview Park

Appreciating our staff

Our team of professionals show up each day with care, commitment and a shared purpose. Every year, we recognize how their contributions shape the experiences of children and families in our communities for the better.

2025 Staff recognition and awards

Held at the Peter Gilgan Centre for Research and Learning in January 2026, our annual Staff Recognition and Awards celebration brought together employees and leadership to celebrate our team. Dr. Ronald Cohn, President and CEO of The Hospital for Sick Children, our Board Chair Jeff Mainland, and several of our Board Trustees also joined in the celebration.

Our 2025 staff award winners: From left, in front: Emma Dambrot (Service Excellence Award) and Grace Lee (Innovation Award). Back row from left: Members of the Intensive Services for Children In-home Team (Collaboration Award): Patrick Leroux, Ana Castelo, Rouba Nehme and Stephanie Lo (missing: Lynn Barnes, Sue Knox, Suhama Abukar and Karen Wright)

Surbhi Sud, Senior Manager, Human Resources, takes our third annual staff and Board selfie with Dr. Ronni Cohn (left foreground)

Executive Director Neill Carson shares his appreciation for staff

Service milestones

Our congratulations to all staff who celebrated service milestones this year. Thank you for your continued dedication and commitment to advancing quality and equitable care.

35 years

Deen Farishikdeen
Maintenance Mechanic, Facilities

Karen Wright
Senior Child and Youth Care Practitioner, Intensive Services for Children

25 years

Ana Pugliese
Program Supervisor, Healthy Babies Healthy Children

Verona
Community Parent, Family Home Visitor, Healthy Babies Healthy Children

Simone Toussaint
Child and Youth Care Practitioner, Intensive Services for Children

20 years

Elwira Kornacka
Child and Youth Care Practitioner, Intensive Services for Children

Five years

Danielle Jamieson

Jane Kitchen
Senior Communications Supervisor, Communications

Jemmelia Morgan
Child and Family Therapist, Prevention and Early Intervention Services

Laura Hansen
Senior Clinical Manager, Individual and Family Services

Dr. Lorne Sugar
Psychologist, Individual and Family Services

Meghan Shaver
Child and Family Therapist, Intensive Services for Children

Miranda Savoie
Child and Youth Care Practitioner, Intensive Services for Youth

Sarah Sanclimenti
Parent Child Educator, Prevention and Early Intervention Services

Zahra Patel
Parent Child Educator, Prevention and Early Intervention Services

Rob Giansante, Director, Corporate Services, congratulates Deen on 35 years of service

Real people, real impact: Our people make a difference

"As the program supervisor of the Healthy Babies Healthy Children (HBHC) program for over 25 years, I am proud to lead a dedicated and highly skilled team of 11 family home visitors. The impact of the HBHC program is profound. By strengthening connections and providing culturally responsive support, families feel more confident in their parenting and better equipped to support their children's development, leading to improved long-term outcomes. As an immigrant myself, I deeply understand the importance of community, connection, and culturally sensitive care. This perspective allows me to lead with empathy and to support both staff and families in meaningful and impactful ways."
– Ana Pugliese, Program Supervisor, Healthy Babies Healthy Children

"Since joining GH-CCMH as communications advisor, one of the things I've come to value is the opportunity to listen. Every conversation reveals the thought, care and compassion that my colleagues bring to supporting children, youth and families. As a storyteller, I have the privilege of learning, alongside the communities we serve, the impact of what happens when people are met with understanding rather than judgement. It feels meaningful to work with my colleagues who are deeply committed to providing life-changing and life-saving care."
– Ishpreet Khanuja, Communications Advisor, Communications

"In my work at the Centre as a child and family therapist, I support families in both family and individual therapy providing a range of interventions, though my passion is play-based interventions. The work our team does matters to our service recipients as it allows families to access mental health supports in an otherwise challenging system – especially with access to psychiatry, psychology, and occupational therapy in addition to therapy. Mental health support at any early age matters for children so that they can grow up reaching their potential, being happy, being healthy, and contribute to our society in meaningful ways."
– Larisa Levalds, Child and Family Therapist, Individual and Family Services

"My role as a maintenance mechanic is to help keep the site running smoothly. I start my day early, to make sure everything in the building is in good shape before families and clients arrive. What I do might not always be visible, but it makes a real difference. Every repair, every check, every early morning helps create an environment where people feel comfortable and cared for. That's something I take pride in every single day."
– Mohammed Sabry Fareed, Maintenance Mechanic, Facilities

A culture that promotes health, well-being and psychological safety

Every year at GH-CCMH, we promote well-being through several wellness events and our summer staff appreciation event. We also recognize numerous days of significance with a focus on health equity and social justice in support of our equity goals and our safer spaces initiative.

Kristen and Michelle act as baristas for staff during our Games and Lattes event

From left: Anie, Mike, Adia, Nicole and Michael gather for an Asian Heritage Month potluck

The Intensive Services for Children team wear pink to show their support for Pink Shirt Day, an anti-bullying campaign

From left: Jemmelia and youth from Finding Your HeART hold a panel for Black History & Futures Month

Staff gather under the Intersex-Inclusive Progress Pride flag for Pride Month

Staff enjoy our annual staff appreciation event at each site

Top photo: Chelsea enjoys ice cream at Jarvis; *Bottom photo*: Neill and Lauren host our annual trivia game at Sheppard

Architect rendering of the new proposed space at 114 Maitland St., courtesy of Minto Group

Physical and digital spaces

Project Maitland

Work continues with our 114 Maitland St. redevelopment project: In December 2025, as part of the application for new zoning, the project team joined developer Minto Group to present at a City of Toronto community meeting. We shared that this project is the opportunity to build on our neighbourhood presence and work with our partners to engage in new ways, bringing formal mental health services together with social, community and family supports.

Electronic health record

This year we completed the implementation of our electronic health record (EHR), bringing medical chart implementation, psychiatry, and participants in Prevention and Early Intervention services on board with the rest of our clinical programs. We're working towards a level of digital sophistication where we can have a more complete picture of who our clients and participants are, where they are located, and what services would best suit their needs.

Artificial Intelligence (AI)

We contributed to a cross-provincial project with community child and youth mental health sector partners to share our needs and concerns around AI in the sector. Using this data, and with the support of the SickKids Artificial Intelligence (SKAI) program at The Hospital for Sick Children, we are building acceptable use guidelines around AI. These guidelines will build critical safeguards that ensure any use of AI at the Centre is ethical, safe and warranted.

See the 110 & 114 Maitland St. project website to learn more about the vision.

SickKids® | Centre for Community Mental Health
LEARNING INSTITUTE

From our SickKids CCMH Learning Institute leadership

This year, the SickKids Centre for Community Mental Health Learning Institute (SickKids CCMH LI) continued to play an important role in strengthening the mental health workforce. We delivered 88 courses and trained 2,219 professionals across health care, community mental health, education, and social service settings, supporting the development of practical, evidence-informed skills that can be applied directly in practice.

We introduced 22 new courses and launched 13 new on-demand offerings, creating more flexible pathways for professionals to access timely and relevant learning. We also secured six customized training contracts with partner organizations, reflecting the value of tailored education that responds to the needs of teams, communities, and service systems.

As we look ahead, we remain focused on delivering high-quality learning, expanding access through flexible formats, and building partnerships that strengthen practice and support better care.

We are grateful to our team, facilitators, partners, and learners for their commitment to this work and for helping advance learning across the sector.

Kelly McMillen,
Executive Director

Angela Kaushal,
Director

The SickKids CCMH LI continues to grow, innovate and deliver meaningful learning that strengthens the mental health workforce and improves outcomes for the communities we serve. Explore our course offerings.

88
courses delivered

22
new courses

2,219
professionals trained

90%
satisfaction rating

Strengthening leadership capacity across the sector

Leadership development remained a key priority for the SickKids CCMH LI, reflecting the need for practical, sector-relevant training that supports professionals at every stage of their leadership journey. This year, our **Leadership and management in mental health services: Micro-credential certificate program**, outlined below, achieved its highest enrolment to date. While new and established offerings expanded opportunities for professionals to strengthen communication, supervision, relationship-building, and the skills needed to lead teams and support healthier, more effective workplaces.

Leadership and management in mental health services: Micro-credential certificate program

This program is offered by the SickKids CCMH LI in partnership with Humber Polytechnic, with participants having the option to receive micro-credential recognition through Humber.

This comprehensive leadership program is designed to support current and emerging leaders in mental health and human services. The program helps participants strengthen the skills needed to lead teams, manage change, support staff, make informed decisions, and contribute to healthy, effective service environments. See the program modules at left.

Modules

Module 1: Becoming an exceptional leader

Module 2: Facilitating successful change

Module 3: Building financial acumen

Module 4: Cultivating employee performance

Module 5: Managing human resource accountabilities

Module 6: Fostering inclusive, equitable and anti-racist organizations

Module 7: Developing effective teams

Module 8: The strategic plan

New leadership offerings

Leaders: Harness the deep transformational power of listening
Focus: listening, presence, influence, workplace relationships

Leading with questions: Transform workplace dynamics, relationships and results
Focus: coaching conversations, curiosity, team dynamics, workplace results

Established leadership programs

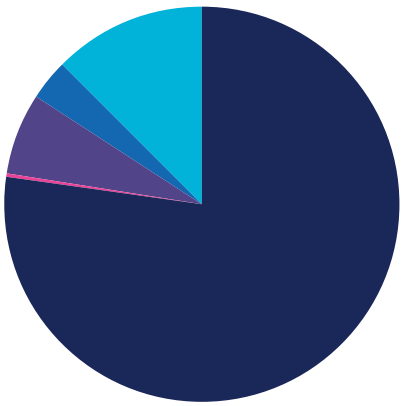
High-impact presentation skills training: Speak with impact and presence
Focus: communication, confidence, presence, presentation skills

Certificate for new supervisors: Supervisor training for health and human services professionals
Focus: supervision, team support, management foundations

Together, these offerings support professionals across the leadership continuum, from new supervisors to experienced leaders, by building practical skills in communication, supervision, change management, team development, equity and organizational impact.

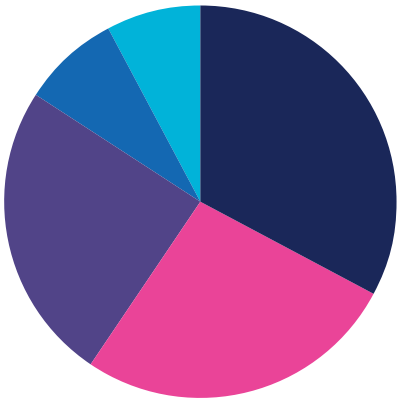
Financial summary

GH-CCMH revenue



- **Ministry of Health** 77.44%
- **Other*** 12.26%
- **Public Health Agency of Canada** 3.47%
- **City of Toronto** 6.56%
- **Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services** 0.27%

GH-CCMH expenses

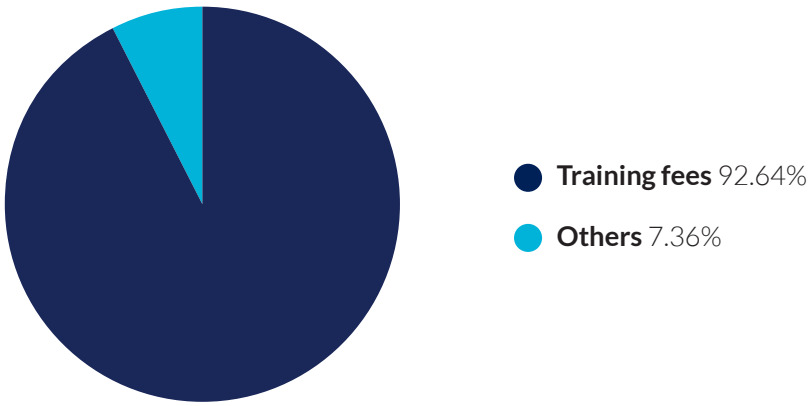


- **Intensive Services** 32.91%
- **Other** 7.68%
- **Administration** 8.14%
- **Counselling and therapy** 24.69%
- **Prevention and Early Intervention** 26.58%

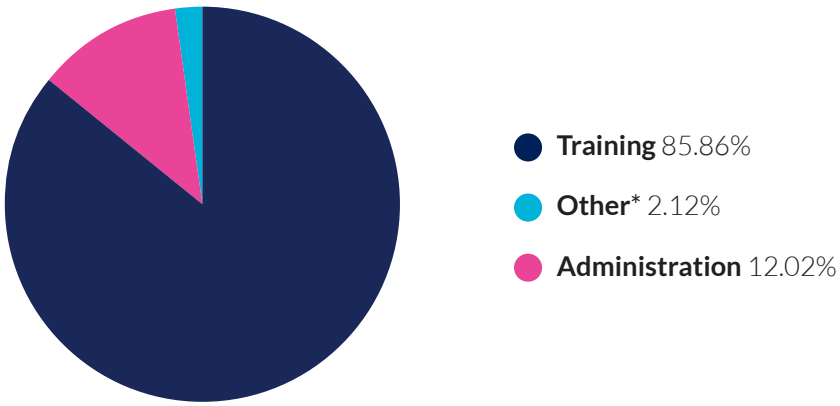
Please note that the legal name of our organization is SickKids Centre for Community Mental Health.

*This includes support from our generous community of donors. Thank you for supporting the SickKids vision of "Healthier Children. A Better World." and the GH-CCMH vision of "Enriching Health through Mental Health."

SickKids CCMH LI revenue



SickKids CCMH LI expenses



GH-CCMH and the SickKids CCMH LI amalgamated in April 2023 and the financial statements presented below are consolidated to reflect this merger.

See full report.

SickKids | Garry Hurvitz Centre for Community Mental Health

Sheppard Treatment Centre
1645 Sheppard Ave. W.,
Toronto, Ontario
Canada M3M 2X4

Jarvis Treatment Centre
440 Jarvis Street,
Toronto, Ontario
Canada M4Y 2H4