

Aire ouverte receives grant to understand and develop the principles, practices and values of Quebec youth services to inform research, policy and service integration in a pan-Canadian context

In Quebec and elsewhere in Canada, integrated youth services (IYS) are being implemented to improve the quality and accessibility of mental health services for youth, offering services for mental, physical and sexual health, substance use, work and study support, and peer support.

Funding was provided by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) to support networking around the various YIS initiatives in Canada. As a result, research teams have received funding totalling \$1 million for projects involving the Quebec IYS network as well as two other provincial networks (Foundry - British Columbia and Youth Wellness Hubs Ontario) and an Aboriginal IYS network from ACCESS Esprits to develop the Network of Networks - Integrated Services for Youth (IYS-Net).

In collaboration with stakeholders and partners across the country, this network (IYS-Net) will mobilize the community of practice and enable the deployment of a learning health system for YIS in Quebec and beyond. The Learning Health System will use research and knowledge mobilization efforts to inform policy, practice and service delivery to improve the health and well-being of youth in Canada.

In Quebec, this CIHR-funded project will be led by Srividya Iyer, a psychologist and associate professor in the Department of Psychiatry at McGill University and the Douglas Research Centre, and Martin Goyette, a professor at the École nationale d'administration publique (ENAP). A representative from the Direction des services en santé mentale of the Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux (MSSS) acts as the main knowledge user. The team is made up of representatives from all stakeholders, including young people, families, researchers, Open Space managers and staff, and community agencies, who will be involved throughout the process and ensure that the results are shared effectively to inform practice and policy.

Many Aire ouverte service points are currently open and many more are in development. In order to contribute to the effective deployment of the Aire ouverte initiative, the project aims to:

1. Better understand the needs of key stakeholders (young people, families, service providers, policy makers) and understand how Aire ouverte will fit into the wider ecosystem including schools, community organisations, other health services, hospitals etc.
2. Identify key indicators and components of Aire ouverte services to be included in the learning health system for IYS that will allow services to learn and continuously improve.

Team members

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