

MEDIA RELEASE

October 6, 2011

Waypoint expands mental health services for transitional-aged youth

Waypoint Centre for Mental Health Care is celebrating Mental Illness Awareness Week, Oct. 2-8, 2011, with the announcement of a new mental health service for youth.

The Transitional Age Youth Tele-psychiatry Consultation Service provides a one-time consultation for youth ages 16 to 24 in the Midland / Penetanguishene area experiencing serious mental health concerns or at risk of developing them.

Dr. Sharon Zikman will provide psychiatric video consultation four days a month for youth referred by a local family doctor or paediatrician.

The service will focus on prevention and early intervention, providing family doctors and paediatricians with diagnostic assistance, treatment advice and recommended follow-up; all helping to avoid crisis situations, emergency department visits and hospitalizations.

“We are thrilled Dr. Zikman is bringing this level of expertise to our community. Her impressive credentials and experience will complement those of service coordinator Shaunna Brady, ultimately responding more effectively to the mental health needs of our youth,” said Carol Lambie, Waypoint President and CEO. “We are also very appreciative of the input and support from the North Simcoe Muskoka Local Health Integration Network, mental health community partners and Chigamik Community Health Centre.”

An open house is planned on Thursday Nov. 17, 2011 from 4 to 5 p.m. at Chigamik Community Health Centre for family doctors, community partners and the public to learn more about the service and meet Dr. Zikman, Ms. Brady and other Waypoint staff. Please RSVP to Heather Stewart at hstewart@waypointcentre.ca or 705-549-3181, ext. 2073.



***Shaunna Brady, service coordinator and
Dr. Sharon Zikman, consulting psychiatrist***

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