UTSC Community Health Centre Preliminary Proposal

UTSC/RSI Community Health Centre (CHC) providing interdisciplinary mental health, traumatic brain injury/FASD, treatment/rehabilitation and family intervention services with Indigenous specialization. This concept is in the initial exploratory stages and would be housed on the University of Toronto Scarborough Campus (UTSC), with proximal access to the Toronto Pan Am Sports Centre for therapeutic exercise and recreation promotion. While the Centre would service the community at large, it would specialize in addressing the unique needs of the proximal urban Indigenous community in the adjacent Kingston Road/Galloway area. The Indigenous community in general is known to have both high rates of mental health and substance concerns, as well as significantly higher rates of traumatic brain injury (TBI) and Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) incidence relative to the community at large. With leadership provided by the clinician - scientists within the psychology department of UTSC and the Rehabilitation Science Institute (UT), the intervention model would be broadly that of clinical-vocational outcome measurement-guided care. The proximity to UTSC and adjacent Centennial College would serve to facilitate integrated vocational rehabilitation.

Guided by the expertise of Native Child and Family Services of Toronto (NCFST), services would offer a blend of traditional Indigenous and western approaches, catering to individual Indigenous patient preferences/needs. Best practice interdisciplinary care would provide interdisciplinary learning experiences for health and allied-health related professional trainees; the involvement of the acclaimed Wilson Centre (UT) would establish a clinical-research informed framework towards continual enhancement of best practice training in interdisciplinary care. Research linkages with the Waakebiness-Bryce Institute for Indigenous Health (WBIIH-UT) could enhance iterative best practice pursuits relative to Indigenous patient outcomes. An outcome measurement guided care framework would also guide patient centric care while fostering an iterative feedback loop between the adoption and development of increasingly efficacious evidence-based multi-disciplinary clinical/rehabilitation intervention modalities. An inaugural meeting was held in later 2016 including all of the above stakeholders, the Ministry of Health and Ontario Psychological Association CEO.