
Meeting you where you are at.

Addressing the Silent Epidemic in Lanark County



Lanark County
Mental Health

Current State

The silent yet escalating crisis of Mental Health and Substance Use/Abuse (MH&SU) in Lanark County demands immediate and focused attention. Highlighting the gravity of the situation, the Lanark OPP has noted that the region has the second-highest service calls in all of Ontario, a staggering statistic given its modest population of approximately 69,000 residents. This distressing fact is further accentuated by the recent proclamation of a domestic violence epidemic in the region, following an inquest into the heart-wrenching murders of three women in domestic violence altercations.



The Challenge

It is concerning that we all live in a community that is experiencing significant and rapid elevations of mental health, substance use and addictions, yet nobody seems to know the depth of this crisis that arguably has shifted to an epidemic.

The capacity of local service providers, including LCMH, is severely strained, making it crucial to actively pursue funding opportunities to close the existing service gaps to address this crisis turned epidemic.

This necessitates a persistent and respectful communication of Lanark County's unique challenges to decision-makers, underlining the critical importance of addressing the MH&SU issues by raising awareness across the broader community.



Public Awareness of the Problem

In Lanark County, there is the urgent and intensifying crisis of mental health and substance abuse. With a budget of 3.2 million dollars from Ontario Health, LCMH provides services to approximately 2,500 individuals each year. However, the growing waitlists indicate a dire lack of capacity to expand our services further. Although we supplement our services with grant funding, these funds are typically restricted to specific populations and outcomes and are often limited to a one or two-year duration.

The public awareness initiative is a pivotal step towards initiating this crucial conversation and disseminating vital information about MH&SU and represents a glaring yet ignored issue that is known to all but cannot be adequately addressed when it is not fully understood.

This is a health care crisis and requires a health care solution but first we need to know, understand and recognize the problem.

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Acknowledge the Crisis

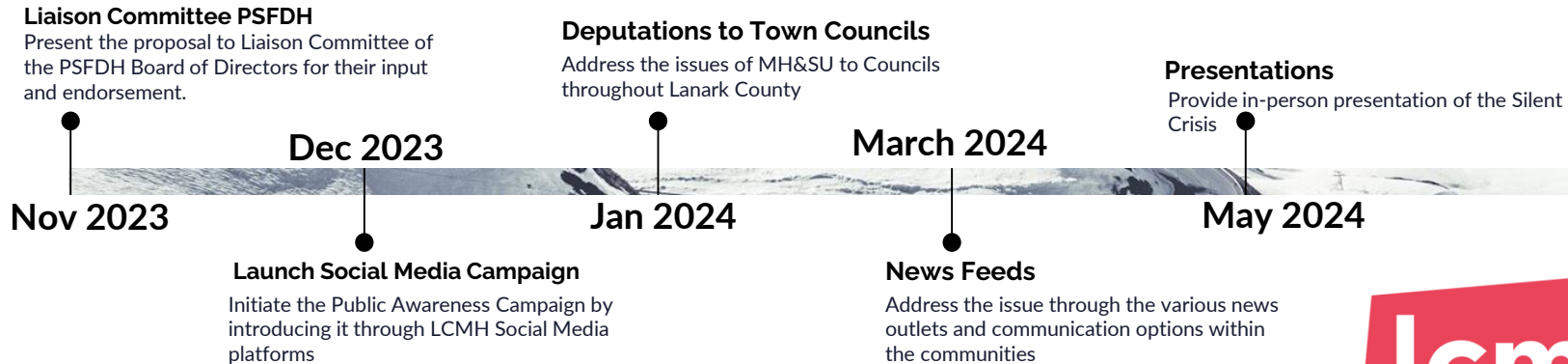


It is of paramount importance to confront and to acknowledge the stark reality instead of denying its existence or naively hoping it will dissipate over time. Regrettably, the situation is deteriorating, and at the very least, it necessitates acknowledgment. Ideally, by addressing the issue, it will lead to a comprehensive understanding, respect, and recognition of the challenges at hand.

Rather than initiating a data-driven public awareness campaign that may lack appeal or fail to pique curiosity, the public awareness initiative aims to foster a welcoming and engaging dialogue about a subject that might otherwise be perceived as uninviting.

Public Awareness Project Timeline

LCMH will host a series of events for interested citizens, providers, partners, community members, councils, etc., and will proactively engage specific audiences to share the conversation and awareness of the silent crisis here in Lanark. The initiative will feature regular social media posts and provide engagement opportunities upon request.



How can the Liaison Committee Help?

**By assisting LCMH Leadership to get in front of the right people.
Connecting us to those decision-makers, influencers, Leaders, etc.**

**And by endorsing the Awareness Campaign you are signalling your
concern as a Governance body of the evident crisis in Lanark
County**

The logo for LCMH (Lanark County Mental Health) is displayed in white lowercase letters on a red background. The background is a red trapezoidal shape that tapers to the right, set against a dark blue background.

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Our funders



Thank you.

