



Association of General Hospital Psychiatric Services

The Association of General Hospital Psychiatric Services (AGHPS)

Jane Chamberlin Award 2021 Selection

Hospital: Lake of the Woods District Hospital

Candidate's Name: Denise Forsyth

Position: Director, Mental Health and Addictions

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It is an honour to nominate Denise Forsyth for the Jane Chamberlin Award. As Director of Mental Health and Addictions at LWDH in Kenora, ON, Denise was integral in the community response to COVID-19. She worked tirelessly in the early days of the pandemic – chairing the Isolation Center Project at the beginning of Covid under the All-Nations Health Partnership. Under her leadership, the Morningstar Detox Center has been serving directly and through community partners meals to the city's homeless throughout the pandemic. She coordinated with business to augment this effort through a purchased bracelet program with local restaurants. This group grew to address issues around food security in the community through the All-Nations Hospital's Food Security committee, and also provides warm clothing to those living homeless. She worked in the hospital as well - establishing routines for virtual alternatives for Outpatient counselling and psychiatric care; and safer practices for the inpatient psychiatric program. Mental Health of staff was also addressed with increasing accessibility of EAP services and efforts to boost staff green spaces. Denise actively participated in pandemic planning meetings. She successfully applied for increased funding to hire 1.5 Nurse Practitioners to support the Morningstar Detox Centre. She coordinated with CMHA Fort Frances' Peer support program to provide wellness kits to isolated individuals. She supported the Regional MHAT pilot project to allow psychiatric assessments from district EDs and supported locum psychiatrists rotating through Kenora during the course of the pandemic. The impact of her work was felt well beyond the walls of the hospital and is greatly deserving of this award.

Submitted by

Dr. Jake Crookall

Psychiatry Service Lead