



Association of General Hospital Psychiatric Services

April 8, 2020

Memorandum

To: Marg Creal, Chair Consent and Capacity Board
Consent and Capacity Board
151 Bloor St West, 10th Floor
Toronto ON
M5S 2T5

From: David Kocerginski MD, FRCPC
President AGHPS
Chief of Psychiatry North York General Hospital

In response to Memorandum CCB Hearings, Hearing Document Obligations and Evidence

The Association of General Hospital Psychiatric Services is a voluntary, provincial Organization representing the specific and unique issues of Schedule I hospitals throughout Ontario. We work closely with Chiefs of Psychiatry, Directors of Hospital Mental Health Programs and other leaders within the mental health hospital community.

We first wish to acknowledge and thank you for your diligence and commitment to care during this challenging time. We appreciate the steps being taken by the Consent and Capacity Board to protect health care providers and our patients while avoiding unnecessary delays and cancellations.

We do, however, wish to bring to your attention a concern raised by Chiefs of Psychiatry and their colleagues. It was noted that the proposed virtual time slots for hearings can start as late as 6:00 PM and can take up to 2 hours, thereby potentially ending at 8:00 PM. We are worried that this schedule, as is, may be unreasonable given the already long, intense hours associated with the current pandemic.

We are convinced that a schedule that maintains the volumes but is sensitive to the workload of the attending psychiatrists could be achieved with some additional tweaking. For example we recognize that renewals are typically shorter than the time required for new cases.

Understanding that no one wants cancellations or delays, and understanding that the volumes could result in backlogs if there were cancellations, it seems that more flexibility might be a reasonable resolution.

The AGHPS is recommending

- **That the existing CCB Committee convene to discuss increased flexibility, and specific strategies to include in practices associated with the current pandemic. We request the agenda include consideration of the long, intense hours attributed to COVID 19. We are confident the Committee could make recommendations that accommodate the required volumes with the most suitable schedule e.g. renewal hearings later in the day.**
- **That this meeting be conducted virtually and include appropriate representation from hospital psychiatry.**
- **That representation from the Schedule I hospitals in the North be specifically included given that geography is not a barrier.**

The AGHPS would be pleased to assist in the process. In particular, we can communicate the decisions of the Committee to all Schedule I hospitals.

We are grateful for your consideration of these recommendations and wish you well these difficult times.

Regards,

David Kocerginski MD, FRCPC
President, AGHPS