



Association of General Hospital Psychiatric Services

The Association of General Hospital Psychiatric Services (AGHPS)

Jane Chamberlin Award 2021 Selection

Hospital: Peterborough Regional Health Centre

Candidate's Name: Melinda Wall

Position: Director, Mental Health & Addictions

Email address: mwall@prhc.on.ca

Melinda Wall has led the Mental Health & Addictions Department (inpatient and outpatient) since 2018 with breaking down barriers and improved access to high quality care in the forefront. Melinda's portfolio as Director of Mental Health and Addictions at PRHC includes her oversight of the following inpatient departments: a 25 – bed adult inpatient unit with a psychiatric intensive care unit, a 6-bed child and adolescent inpatient unit, and a crisis response unit, as well as the following outpatient departments: Adult Outpatient Program, Psychosis Assessment and Treatment Clinic, Early Psychosis Intervention, CTO Coordination, Family and Youth Clinic, Urgent Care Clinic for Children and Youth, Eating Disorders Clinic, the RAAM Clinic, and the Talk Now Mental Health and Addictions Virtual “Walk-in” Clinic.

Melinda's dedication to improving access to care is demonstrated through her ability to engage community partners to form alliances in our small community with the intent to let no one fall through the cracks. Melinda initiated our department wide Quality Council that includes our leadership team as well as former patients and family members of patients who help us improve our care provision. This Council meets monthly and gives voice to our community members who have experienced our services. Melinda has been a leader in response to the opiate crisis in Peterborough and was an integral part of the opening of our Rapid Access Addiction Medicine (RAAM) Clinic which continues to grow and transform based on patient needs.

From designing new programming based on local needs, policy writing, community engagement, advocating for a harm reduction approach across the hospital, to meeting with patients and families directly to hear their concerns, Melinda continues to rise to the top as she leads our Mental Health and Addictions Department.

Submitted by

- **Dr R Basker, Chief, Dept. of Psychiatry & Medical Director, Mental Health & Addictions Program**
- **Claire Hanlon, Child & Youth Inpt Unit Manager and Adolescent Urgent Care, Eating Disorders and Rapid Access Addictions Medicine Manager, MH & A Program**
- **Brendan Sova, Adult Outpt Clinic and Talk Now Clinic Manager and Crisis Response Unit Manager, MH&A Program**
- **Bobbie Smith-Taylor, Inpt Unit & ECT Manager and EPI, PATC & CTO Manager, MH&A Program**