

St. Leonard's Community Services, London and Region

St. Leonard's Community Services London Region (SLCS) has been delivering essential residential and non-residential services to the criminal justice system dating back to 1969. Through the course of the Agency's development, SLCS has initiated services to address a number of special needs populations within the justice system. Specialized services supporting the unique needs of youth, developmentally challenged, mentally ill and female offenders are examples of services developed and implemented at SLCS. All services at SLCS maintain a focus on prevention, early intervention or primary service in relation to persons at risk of, or involved with, the criminal justice system.

With the residential services that Maison Louise Arbour (2007), Cody Centre(1985) and Gallagher Centre(1975) provide, St. Leonard's' Community Services is able to support a full range of London residents that are involved in the criminal justice system. St. Leonard's Community Services has embraced the many challenges in supporting these people with passion and professionalism.

Background and Service Delivery

St. Leonard's Community Services has been in continuous operation since its incorporation in 1969. At the present time the Agency owns and operates three residential group homes and one community programs centre. Combined these facilities total over 30,000 sq feet of space. Our Mission Statement and Strategic Plan address a variety of needs in support of our community, the clients we serve and the criminal justice system. Services range from high support residential group homes, including specialized services to persons with mental illness or developmental disability through to prevention services in local schools and early intervention programs associated with the local police. In fiscal year 2012-13, we served over 6000 persons.

St. Leonard's Community Services, London and Region plays a vital role in promoting public safety in London. Our relationship with London Police Services and community partners allows for positive reintegration and support to individuals that experience significant challenges with access to services in our community.

St. Leonard's Community Services, London and Region employ approximately 100 employees in the 19 programs that we offer for the community of London. St. Leonard's Community Services, London and Region has funding from 6 Ministries- Ministry of Health and Long Term Care; Ministry of the Attorney General; Ministry of Child and Youth Services; Ministry of Community Social Services, Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services and Ministry of Public Safety – Correctional Services of Canada. Our programs have 3 key goals in common: community safety, client rehabilitation including reduced recidivism and client accountability.

RESIDENTIAL PROGRAMS

Cody Centre Community Residential Facility

Cody Centre provides twenty-four hour supervision and assistance to federal offenders on parole and statutory release. Supervision and assistance is provided from the assigned Parole Officer and Justice

Worker. Assessment, Crisis Intervention, Referral, and Discharge Planning www.slcs.ca are available to all federal offenders in St. Leonard's care. Psychological & Psychiatric Services, Employment Services, Sex Offender Treatment, Community Maintenance Program, Alternatives Attitudes & Associates Program, Aboriginal Services, and Personal Support Worker services are available to assist with social reintegration.

Maison Louise Arbour (MLA) Community Residential Facility

MLA is an eight bed Community Residential Facility for adult females over the age of 18 that are involved or at risk of involvement in the Criminal Justice system. The programs is available to females who have been sentenced to a term of federal incarceration, involvement with probation system, forensic program at Regional Mental Health Program or in mental health support. MLA provides twenty-four hour supervision and assistance to each resident including case management, crisis intervention and discharge planning. In- house programming is available to all residents in areas such as Mental Health Education, Anger Awareness/Emotional Regulation, Relapse Prevention, Life Skills, Self Esteem and Leisure/ Recreation.

Gallagher Centre Community Residential Facility

Gallagher Centre is a sixteen bed Community Residential Facility for adult males over the age of 18 that are involved or at risk of involvement in the Criminal Justice system. This program focuses on meeting the needs of offenders that are experiencing more complex challenges within the criminal justice system. The programs is available to males who have been sentenced to a term of federal incarceration, involvement with probation system, forensic program at Regional Mental Health Program or in mental health support. Gallagher Centre provides twenty-four hour supervision and assistance to each resident including case management, crisis intervention and discharge planning. In- house programming is available to all residents in areas such as Mental Health Education, Anger Awareness/Emotional Regulation, Relapse Prevention, Life Skills, Self Esteem and Leisure/ Recreation.

ADULT COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

Direct Accountability Program (DAP)

The Direct Accountability Program an alternative to prosecution for eligible individuals charged with minor criminal offences. The program was introduced as part of Ontario's Justice on Target Strategy to reduce court delays and involves offenders being held accountable through community-based sanctions. Participants must be willing to assume responsibility for their actions and be prepared to make amends through the completion of an assigned sanction. Once sanctions are completed, charges will be withdrawn..

Pre-Charge Adult Diversion

The Pre-Charge Adult Diversion program has been developed through a partnership between our agency and London Police Service. This program is designed to divert minor and low risk offences away from the court system while holding the individual accountable for their actions and ensuring any victims or the community receives reparation.

Federal Adult Diversion

The Federal Adult Diversion program is designed to provide adults that are charged with Federal Offenses, primarily under the Controlled Drug and Substance Act, the opportunity to complete community based sanctions as a means of having their charge withdrawn.

Intermittent Community Work Program

The ICWP program is designed to assist individuals who have been charged with offences such as Drinking and Driving (*not causing bodily harm), Driving without a Permit, Drug related charges, and sentenced to serve their custody time on specified day during the week or weekend. This program offers the participants the opportunity to maintain their employment and continue to contribute to their community while serving their custody time.

Substance Use Program(SUP) and Temporary Absence Program(TAP)

The SUP program provides group educational and counselling opportunity for adults in the criminal justice system that are experiencing substance use/abuse issues . The TAP program provides individuals an opportunity to complete community service hours as an alternative to serving their time in custody.

Adult Community Service Orders (CSO)

The A-CSO program serves adults who have been ordered by the courts to complete a prescribed number of community service hours. The directed individuals are expected to attend placements and schedule regular progress meetings, and complete their community hours within the allotted timeframe to have successful completion.

Supervised Independent Living (SIL)

The SIL program is designed to provide community based - non-residential supports/services for individuals with developmental disabilities, mental health issues or with other special needs that are or are high risk of being involved in the criminal justice system. Many of the areas of focus for our support for the individuals in this program include Community Living Skills, Crisis Prevention and Resolution, Education, Finances, Family Work, Health, Legal Access, Social/Recreation, Respite, Emotional Supports/Counselling, Therapeutic Partnerships.

London Reporting Centre

The London Reporting Centre operates out of Cody Centre(male) and Maison Louise Arbour House (female) and provides non-residential supervision and assistance to higher risk/needs federal offenders that require additional services to support their safe and structured community reintegration. This program is designed to aid in the overall reduction of recidivism and assist in community stabilization through support when transitioning from the institution into the community.

SCHOOL BASED AND YOUTH DIVERSION PROGRAMS

Peer Power

Based in restorative practices, Peer Power is geared to help empower and support youth through intervention and prevention. Training includes “Moment of Choice”, peer helping, leadership, peer mediation, and communication skill building. It is an experiential and activity based learning model. Adult mediation, communication, and facilitation workshops are also available.

Restorative Approaches Program

Our RA program provides all students with the opportunity to engage in positive restorative and supportive work when dealing with conflict and bullying. The purpose is to repair the harm caused in a safe and supportive environment. The program goal is to create solutions and outcomes that provide the framework for learning how to manage difficult situations and move forward with a sense of resolution and well-being.

Choices Program

Choices program is an eight-session early intervention group designed to teach youth reasoning and decision-making skills. Youth will have the opportunity to examine the importance of their personal value systems and how influential these systems are to empathy, communication, decision-making, and victimization. Youth are encouraged to take responsibility for their actions and the positive or negative consequences they create for themselves.

Time to Think Program

Time to Think is a gender specific group offered to service high risk youth. Facilitators focus on safety, trust, growth, and support while encouraging a group atmosphere of participation and responsibility. Class sessions focus on modifying impulsive, egocentric, illogical and rigid thinking of participants through structured group activities, role playing, problem solving, and group discussions.

Get a Grip Program

Get a Grip program is offered to provide youth appropriate and positive skills for interacting with peers, family, and community when faced with difficult situations. Participants are encouraged to be active in changing attitudes and behaviours surrounding their anger awareness and management.

Community Justice Committees and Conferencing(CJC)

Engaging in Restorative Justice, CJC's bring together offenders, victims, parents/guardians, and trained volunteers. The CJC's contribute to helping communities understand the causes of crime, neighbourhood safety and well-being, and supportive networks and relationships. Youth are held accountable for their actions and are helped to develop meaningful solutions to repair the harm caused.

Extrajudicial Measures (Pre-Charge Diversion) (EJM)

This program offer youth in the judicial system supportive interventions and effective alternatives to addressing the impact of crime without formal criminal proceedings. An investigating officer may decide that the youth and the community would be better served by EJM which is designed to hold youth accountable for their actions while offering opportunities to intervene in at-risk behaviours. Examples of measures used within this program can include: community or personal service work, apology letters,

an apology in person, essay/crime prevention projects, restitution, and/or www.slcs.ca participation in anger awareness, substance abuse, or life skills programs, and/or participation in a Community Justice Committee.

Extrajudicial Sanctions (Court Diversion)(EJS)

A Crown Attorney may consider the option of EJS if the young person cannot be adequately dealt with by way of police warning, caution or referral to the Extrajudicial Measures program due to the serious nature of the offence, the number of previous offences committed by the young person, or any other aggravating circumstances.

Federal Youth Diversion

The Federal Diversion program is designed to provide youth that are charged with Federal Offenses, primarily under the Controlled Drug and Substance Act, the opportunity to complete community based sanctions as a means of having their charge withdrawn.

YOUTH COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

Attendance Centre Program

The Attendance Centre Program is specifically designed for youth aged 12 to 18 who have been found guilty of committing an offence contrary to the Criminal Code of Canada. These youth are ordered by a judge to participate in the Attendance Centre Program for 240 hours in a six month period, as a condition of their probation. The Attendance Centre provides closely supervised programs where youth in conflict with the law accept responsibility for their actions and develop problem solving skills for social, emotional and educational concerns.

Intensive Reintegration Service

The IRS team offers guidance and support to individuals who are at high-risk to re-offend upon release from youth custody and are on probation. Working as mentors, coaches, facilitators, role models and advocates, the IRS team assists their male and female clients serving a disposition under the Youth Criminal Justice Act (YCJA).

Community Planning

The Agency actively participates in a large number of committees ranging from school-based initiatives, court based committees, and community planning tables. SLCS initiates and contributes to a number of service delivery partnerships and collaborations. While not always successful, SLCS has been at the forefront of integrated service delivery partnerships. SLCS is recognized for our innovation and our willingness to serve.

St. Leonard's Community Services is currently working on a solution for individuals that are homeless in London and involved in the criminal justice system. Our work with the City of London is based in best

practices and fiscally responsible programs to improve outcomes through addressing the social determinants of health through housing with supports.

Understanding the Criminal Justice System in London

Statistics for Criminal Justice in London:

- 1,327 – number of people charged with criminal offences by LPS that are bound by bail conditions, which results in bail checks by uniformed officers
- 83 – number of parolees in London
- 2,329 – number of people on provincial supervision, in London
- 1,242 – number of people wanted on LPS warrants
- 5,000 - number of people currently charged by the LPS for criminal or drug offences before the courts

St. Leonard's Community Services provides 37 male beds and 8 females beds for individuals in London and the remaining individuals are living in our communities, in our neighbourhoods and on our streets.

Maison Louise Arbour Residence is a **solution** to assisting women to reintegrate into London in a positive manner with supports and structure to assist in teaching the lifeskills necessary to contribute and be productive in a healthy life.

- Established in 2007
- **Small residential home to assist women** involved in the criminal justice system to reintegrate back into their communities (maximum 8 beds)
- **Secure and safe:** 24/7 supervised and supported facility providing transitional support to women
- **Services provided:** assist in securing stable accommodations; mental health support; connection to ongoing community services; life skills; supportive counselling; self esteem; healthy lifestyles and healthy boundaries
- **Funded by:** Ministry of Health and Long Term Care(4-5 beds); Correctional Services Canada (2 beds max) and Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services (2 beds max)

Pathways to Crime for Females:

The pathways for women into the correctional system may or may not be a direct function of the presence of a mental disorder, but the fact of a history of victimization/mental health disorder will play an important role in women's' responses to a correctional environment and the nature of the programming that women require.

Appropriate housing that provides assistance with daily living. This need can be difficult to address as housing for the mentally ill is very difficult to find in most jurisdictions; housing for mentally ill offenders is even more difficult.

Social supports and aftercare programs. A knowledgeable, pro-social support system is one of the best predictors of long term success. However, many mentally disordered offenders have few familial or social ties and finding these in the community can be difficult.

A source of employment or structured activity. Many offenders have limited work skills or the ability to seek work on their own. Yet others cannot function in a workplace because of their handicaps. However, having a structured setting to spend work hours, whether a formal job or not, is an important factor for success.

Appropriate leisure skills. As with work, it is important that the offender has a reliable and healthy means of spending leisure time. Without work and leisure activities, many offenders will either self-isolate or will return to their pre-incarceration environment, typically one that promotes drug use

Financial assistance. Some form of financial support, either through a job or social assistance, is necessary.

Primary Issues faced by Women in our residence:

- poverty
- housing
- mental health needs
- addictions
- domestic violence
- post traumatic stress

Statistical Information provided by London Police Services