

Acquired Brain Injury (ABI) & Addictions/Mental Health Collaborative

Addressing the complex, unmet needs of adults with moderate-to-severe ABI, complicated by mental health and/or addictions, using a shared-care model and discussion about sequential/concurrent care.
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Background

Through an Ontario Neurotrauma Foundation (ONF) catalyst grant, a project facilitator was hired to implement best practice guidelines for people with diagnosed moderate-to-severe traumatic brain injury (TBI) and comorbid mental health and/or substance use issues. A working group was formed to provide leadership, establish a successful, sustainable collaboration and continuity mechanism, in order to develop optimal management strategies for individuals with TBI, mental health and/or addiction/substance use issues.

Working Group

A 20-member, multi-sector and lived experience working group met over several months to develop a mechanism for addressing the complex, unmet needs of adults with moderate-to-severe ABI complicated by mental health/addiction issues.

The working group developed:

- High risk definition
- Referral process
- Inclusion and exclusion criteria
- Consent process and forms
- Discussion format
- Performance indicators
- Job descriptions for members



Stakeholders

- Adults in Southeastern Ontario with moderate-to-severe ABI complicated by mental health/addiction issues.

- Collaborative Members:
 - ABI Services
 - Psychiatry
 - Mental Health Services
 - Addictions Services
 - Home & Community Care Services
 - Housing Services
 - Lived Experience Representatives

- Invited guest service providers

High Risk Definition

“Individuals or families facing a number of risk factors that affect multiple areas of the individual’s life and in all likelihood will lead to something bad happening and happening soon.”

Collaborative

The SEO ABI System Navigator, following guiding principles and processes for addressing client needs, holds monthly Collaborative meetings for members to discuss the unmet needs of clients. Together the Collaborative generates creative ideas and solutions to address the needs of a client. The SEO ABI System Navigator also manages the review of referrals and facilitation of meetings.

Collaborative documents and processes:

- Collaborative flyer
- Consent form and information sheet
- Information tracking sheet for lead agencies
- Non-admit letter
- Discharge letter

Clients provide consent for six month intervals to the Collaborative. Recommendations and options for services are presented to the client for consideration by the lead agency. Through the SEO ABI System Navigator, lead agencies provide monthly updates, and at the end of the six months the lead agency makes a presentation to the Collaborative on the outcomes.

Collaborative Locations

Hastings
Prince
Edward

Kingston,
Frontenac,
Lennox
& Addington

Lanark,
Leeds
&
Grenville

Collaborative Wins

- Better communication amongst service providers about how to best meet the needs of people with ABI
- Increased understanding of services available and system gaps
- Improved continuity and efficiency of care
- Better understanding of how best to identify and support people with ABI

“The recommendations from the Collaborative were very beneficial and were a spark for the agency.”

- Gord Unsworth, Community High Intensity Treatment Manager

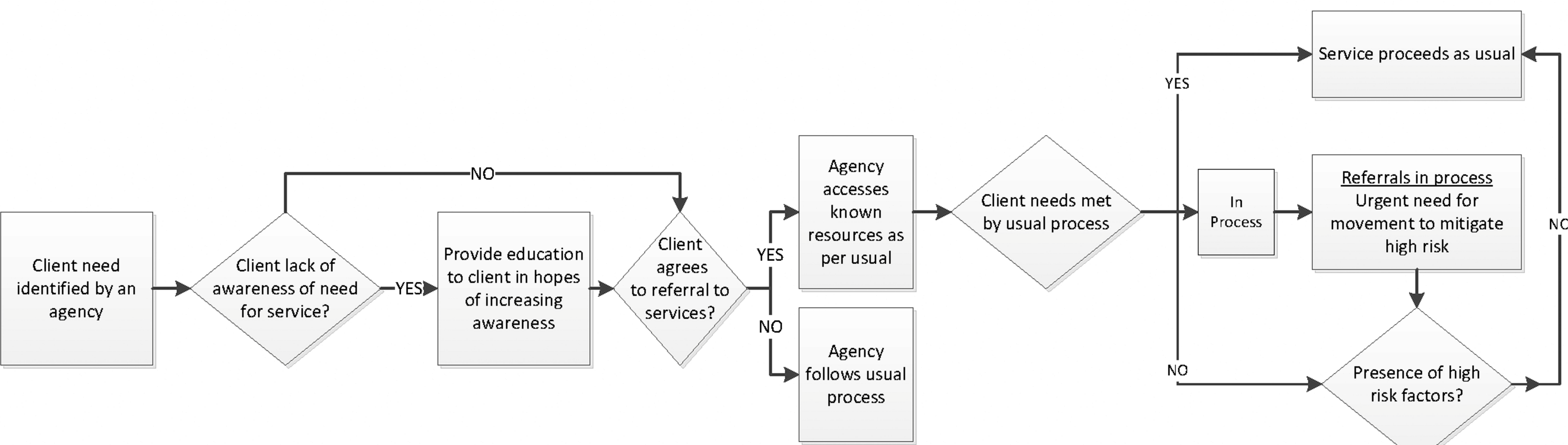
“The resulting connections with the agencies and supports have been fantastic and a huge help.”

- Krista DePooter, Assertive Community Treatment Occupational Therapist

Next Steps

- Develop pre and post evaluations on the effectiveness of the recommendations made by the Collaborative. The evaluations will also touch on how recommendations reduced any potential risks to a client and if they helped improve their quality of life.
- Consider a process which would allow for the names of individuals to be released prior to Collaborative meetings, so that members can review files and prepare notes in advance of meetings.

Referral Pathway



Top Recommendations

- Psycho-social Intervention
- Addiction Services
- Affordable Housing
- Prescriptions & Medication Adjustments
- Home/Community Supports & Finances

Leading Risks

Based on information gathered from 11 referrals to the Kingston, Frontenac, Lennox & Addington Collaborative. A total of 60 risks were identified.

