



***For Immediate Release
April 29, 2016***

SouthWestern Academic Health Network (SWAHN) Mental Health & Addiction Symposium to be held this Monday at Hôtel-Dieu Grace Healthcare

WHAT: On May 2nd, the SouthWestern Academic Health Network (SWAHN) will host a Research and Innovation Symposium addressing family peer support of individuals with mental health or addiction-related concerns. The goal of the event is to increase the knowledge about family/caregiver mental health/addiction support initiatives in Southwestern Ontario. SWAHN, a network focused on integrated excellence in research, education and clinical practice, aims to foster collaboration between academic, hospital and community organizations in order to improve patient and population health.

"This is the perfect opportunity to kick-off Mental Health Week. As a healthcare organization that continues to serve and advance our Mental Health programs, Hôtel-Dieu Grace Healthcare is excited to be involved in events such as the Symposium that begins to bridge academic and community research in mental health," said Rob Moroz, Director of Community Mental Health.

The event will begin at 9:30 am in the Brown Auditorium at Hôtel-Dieu Grace Healthcare and will feature a keynote address by Dr. Rick Csiernik from the School of Social Work at King's University College at Western University. Dr. Csiernik, a recognized author and presenter at over 200 national and international conferences, workshops and seminars will speak to the place of family in treatment. Other presentations are also scheduled which will focus on proposed research projects, engaging members of both the academic and community sectors. Ms. Joy Lang, a member of a Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA) Middlesex family support group, is planning to offer her personal perspective on the value of family peer support. Following the presentations, symposium participants will engage in discussions with the intention of encouraging more attention to research related to family peer support.

For more information regarding the Symposium click [here](#).

- WHO:**
- Dr. Rick Csiernik, School of Social Work, King's University College, Western University, Keynote Speaker
 - SWAHN Committee and Working Group members
 - Executive Leadership Team, Hôtel-Dieu Grace Healthcare
 - Various local and regional mental health and addiction experts
- WHEN:** Monday, May 2nd, 2016, 9:30 am - 4:30 pm (interview opportunities from 11:40 am -12:45 pm)
- WHERE:** Hôtel-Dieu Grace Healthcare, Brown Auditorium, Tayfour Building, Windsor, Ontario

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For more information contact:

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About Hôtel-Dieu Grace Healthcare

Hôtel-Dieu Grace Healthcare is a premium healthcare centre offering Rehabilitation Services; Specialized Mental Health & Addictions; Complex Medical and Palliative Care; and Children and Youth Mental Health Services. HDGH has a unique blended model of specialized inpatient beds; outpatient residential beds; as well as outpatient and community services.

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