



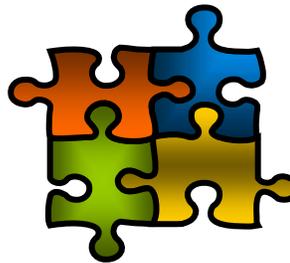
### **Sixth Exchange Session**

*offered as part of the cross-training program aiming to improve the continuity of services and programs for youths, youths at risk for, and youths having concurrent mental health and substance use disorders*

## **Cross-Detection: from screening to diagnosis for youths between 15 to 30 years of age.**

**June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011  
Douglas Institute**

### **Participant Guide**



**W**elcome to the sixth cross-training session offered as part of the “Cross-training program aiming to improve the continuity of services for youths having concurrent mental health and substance use disorders in the South-West of Montreal”!

### ***History of cross-training in the South-West of Montreal***

Initiated by the Committee of Mental Health Partners of the South-West (called COPASM for Comité des partenaires en santé mentale du Sud-Ouest) in 2002, the cross-training program consists of training activities and personnel exchanges between resources specializing in mental health, substance abuse and addiction treatment, and prevention for the South-West of Montreal. Members of the neighbourhood police force are also implicated in this project. Throughout the exchange sessions, there has been an involvement of over 900 participants. In addition, the personnel exchange program has offered 147 participants the opportunity to take part in a short observational stage at another organization of their choice.

Cross-training is an approach that is becoming increasingly used in order to improve the functioning of services within a network. The aim of this type of training is to create a better understanding of the role of each partner involved so as to ensure an optimal quality and continuity of service provision for clients.

The cross-training program generally involves **personnel exchanges** between different resources that work with the same, or similar clientele. This enables staff members to learn about the existence of other organizations and become exposed to alternative methods of intervention, as well as new fields of expertise. Cross-training, within the context of the present project, aims to have participants acquire information and develop their abilities in order to better provide service to a clientele who is at risk for or having concurrent disorders in mental health and substance abuse.

“The goal of cross-training is not to equip staff members with the ability to execute the work of other professionals, but to create an environment of improved collaboration among these professionals that will help fill the void that exists in the needs and treatment of clients.”

- Simmonds, 2003

The cross-training session in which you are participating today consists of short presentations, workshop group discussions, and a panel composed of professionals working within mental health, substance abuse treatment, public security, and public health networks. This was the exchange format proposed during a consultation of key informants from each network. Today, you are more than 150 professionals coming from teams working in the domains of mental health, substance abuse treatment, prevention, public security, and university settings such as Montreal, Sherbrooke and McGill.

On behalf of all of the partners implicated in the implementation of this projet, we welcome you to this cross-training exchange session!

Michel Perreault

**Sixth Exchange Session offered as part of the cross-training program**

**June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011 from 8:30 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. at the Douglas Institute**

**Cross-Detection: from screening to diagnosis for youths between  
15 to 30 years of age.**

**Organization of the activity**

In 2009, a research team headed by Michel Perreault, researcher at the Douglas Institute, received funding from the Drug Strategy Community Initiatives Fund (DSCIF) of Health Canada to pursue a consultation on the training needs for professionals working with a clientele consisting of youths (15-30 years old) at risk for or having concurrent mental health and substance use problems. The results of this consultation revealed the primary themes on which the exchange sessions would subsequently be based on, with the current session focusing on the challenges of evaluation. The formula, based on discussions centered on clinical cases within small groups of professionals from different networks, is the one which emerged during the consultation process. Following previous exchange sessions, a compilation and analysis of comments issued by participants via their evaluation forms has initiated certain adjustments to the procedures of these sessions in order to correspond more adequately to the needs of participants. Among these, suggestions from participants have provided the opportunity to allot more time to the exchanges and group discussions based on clinical cases.

**The objectives of the exchange session**

The present exchange session (June 1st, 2011) aims to:

1. improve knowledge on the screening and detection of problems related to abusive substance consumption or addiction;
2. increase the understanding of the screening and detection methods for problems related to psychological distress or mental health disorders;
3. increase comprehension of the context in which evaluation takes place from a populational perspective (from the exploration of different types of consumption among youths in school to developed dual disorders).

The content of the day will be based on the reports of discussion groups, where two clinical case studies will be explored, and on which participants will establish a trajectory of services.

## **Participants**

One hundred and fifty professional staff members, police persons, program managers, and university specialists are taking part in this event. They originate from the principal Montreal centres in psychiatry and substance abuse treatment from the South-West of Montreal, namely the Douglas Mental Health University Institute, Centre Dollard-Cormier – Institut universitaire sur les dépendances, Direction de santé publique, the Service de police de la ville de Montréal (SPVM) and the Louis-H. Lafontaine Hospital. Among the other participants involved in the organization of the day are professionals from health network establishments and community resources in the South-West of Montreal ( the Auberge communautaire du Sud-Ouest, CSSS South-West Verdun, CSSS-Dorval-Lachine-LaSalle, the Centre de référence du grand Montréal, Drogue : aide et référence, Portage, Groupe d'entraide Lachine, the centre d'hébergement L'Entre-toît), and other resources not situated on the territory, such as : Agence Ometz, Cactus, CSSS Jeanne-Mance, CSSS Gatineau, Centre hospitalier Pierre-Janet, Commission scolaire de St-Hyacinthe, and the Société québécoise de la schizophrénie. Professors from the University of Sherbrooke, the University of Montreal, and McGill University are also among the workshop participants.

## **Contact Persons**

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## **Acknowledgments**

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Thank you!