

Background

The Toronto Central Local Health Integration Network's (TC LHIN) Behavioural Supports for Seniors Program (BSSP) is part of the Behavioural Supports Ontario (BSO), a provincial initiative designed to transform the system of care for Ontario seniors, their families and caregivers who live with dementia, mental illness and other neurological conditions through partnerships among local, regional and provincial agencies.

Appointed by the TC LHIN to lead the BSSP, Baycrest is bringing together all parts of the system involved in caring for seniors with behavioural challenges with the goal of collaboratively implementing Behavioural Supports Action Plan within the TC LHIN catchment area.

Program goals

- Improve quality of life, and outcomes, for older adults (and their families) who have challenging behaviours.
- Increase specialized behavioural support capacity in long-term care homes
- Improve co-ordination and reduce fragmentation of the community behavioural support system to ensure more equitable and timely access to services.
- Increase specialized community capacity/outreach to support individuals to stay in their existing environment, reduce or prevent unmanageable behaviours.
- Improve transitions across the continuum.
- Increase workforce skills and training for providers across the continuum.
- Improve caregiver education and support.
- Prevent unnecessary and avoidable emergency room visits and potential hospitalization for clients with challenging and unmanageable behaviours through access to an enhanced model of care.
- Reduce hospital alternative level of care days.

BSSP is comprised of:

Transitional Behavioural Support Unit (T BSU)

Located at Baycrest, this 23-bed, specialized transitional unit provides support for individuals whose behaviours have become unmanageable in their current setting. The client's behaviours are stabilized until they are able to be returned to their home. Eligibility is determined by the Toronto Central Community Care Access Centre (CCAC). The average length of stay is four months.

Community Behavioural Support Outreach Team (C BSOT)

A community-based outreach team enabling inter-agency collaboration with community partners to deliver a continuum of care, caregiver support and skills training. Three specialized clinicians with behavioural support expertise work with the Community Care Access Centre (CCAC) and other community partners.

Long-Term Care Behavioural Support Outreach Team (LTC BSOT)

A specialized team comprised of an advance practice nurse, registered nurses and personal support workers helping seniors with unmanageable behaviours who are living in long-term care homes. By modeling different approaches and techniques for interacting and caring for older residents, the goal for this team is to work with staff in all long-term care homes to build behavioural support models. The LTC BSOT responds to case-by-case requests from Geriatric Mental Health Outreach Teams, Psychogeriatric Resource Consultants and long-term care homes.

Crisis Mobile Service Enhancement

An expanded mobile crisis team, provided throughout the TC LHIN by Woodgreen Community Services, to ensure older adults receive the support they need.

Education and Training Consortium

A wide range of integrated and coordinated education and training to enhance knowledge and expertise of caregivers, primary care practitioners, long-term care staff, community health service providers and acute care personnel. The consortium is comprised of the Reitman Centre at Mount Sinai Hospital, The Regional Geriatric Program and The Alzheimer's Society of Toronto and Baycrest.

For information about the BSSP:

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