

## Terms of Reference

### Steering Committee

#### Mental Health for Students & Youth Research Initiative

#### Context

In January 2020 the University of Toronto's (U of T's) [Presidential & Provostial Task Force on Student Mental Health](#) released its [final report](#). The [administrative response](#) to this report included an outline for a new partnership with the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH) that consists of four integrated elements: (1) a redesign of campus-based services; (2) integrated care pathways between campus-based services and CAMH (and other Toronto hospitals); (3) enhanced clinical education programs on student mental health for trainees; and (4) a research initiative on youth and student mental health.

Three projects address these four elements: (a) elements 1 and 2 are addressed by the clinical review project; (b) element 3 is the education project; and (c) element 4, which relates to this Terms of Reference, is the research project led by Dr. Kristin Cleverley. Collectively, this partnership between U of T and CAMH, i.e. these three projects, is overseen by Dr. Trevor Young Dean, Faculty of Medicine and Vice Provost, Relations with Health Care Institutions, and Dr. Vicky Stergiopoulos, Professor and Vice-Chair, Clinical and Innovation in the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Toronto and Physician-in-Chief at CAMH.

#### Mandate

A [project proposal](#) was submitted and approved for one year of funding from [Institutional Strategic Initiatives](#) (ISI). One of the central components of this project is the recruitment and selection of a [Steering Committee](#) ([link to the call for applications](#)) of expert researchers in student and youth mental health.

The core mandate of the Steering Committee, as detailed in the project proposal, is to provide research-informed, evidence-based solutions to the challenges identified by the Task Force. This new initiative will build a research network to connect U of T and CAMH researchers, as well as others, with expertise in interventions and preventative measures specific to student and youth mental health. The working vision for this network, to be refined by the Steering Committee, is to enable research that generates foundational knowledge leading to new internationally recognized solutions to post-secondary student mental health challenges.

The Steering Committee will work in partnership with a Student Reference Group, to be announced in the Fall. The Steering Committee will facilitate an inclusive consultation process with various

stakeholders (including students, post-doctoral fellows, clinicians, administrators, and faculty at all career stages) to:

- define the formal vision for the research network;
- secure broad support (including funding) from CAMH and all three U of T campuses;
- prepare a full proposal to ISI to fund research network activities; and
- report regularly to the ISI Working Group and Provost.

At the end of the year, the Steering Committee will submit an ISI proposal that outlines how the network will:

- advance knowledge and/or develop solutions to complex issues related to mental health and mental health program design and delivery that require cross-divisional collaborations and integrated, interdisciplinary approaches;
- develop and evaluate new internationally recognized solutions to post-secondary student mental health challenges;
- identify or develop shared mental health resources and/or facilities that can support student and youth mental health;
- provide opportunities for the accelerated translation of practice and the dissemination of results into the public domain; and
- leverage other aspects of the CAMH and U of T collaboration

## **Membership**

Members have been selected based on an open recruitment process ([link to call for applications](#)). Below is a list of the final members.

**Chair:** Kristin Cleverley, RN, PhD, CPMHN(C)  
CAMH Chair in Mental Health Nursing Research  
Assistant Professor, Lawrence S. Bloomberg Faculty of Nursing and  
Faculty of Medicine, Department of Psychiatry, University of Toronto  
Senior Scientist, Centre for Addiction and Mental Health

## **Members:**

TBD

## **Roles and Responsibilities**

- *Chair:* Is responsible for all elements of the project, including the facilitation of Steering Committee meetings, and leading the development of the full proposal
- *Members:* Are responsible for participating in all Steering Committee meetings, reviewing all documents shared with the Committee, and co-writing the full proposal. Members may expect to spend a minimum of two to three hours a month on top of Steering Committee meetings on related activities, including reviewing and approving key documents
- *Project Support Staff:*
  - The Associate Director, Mental Health for Student and Youth Research Initiative is responsible for coordinating Steering Committee activities and supporting the chair in managing the preparation of the full written proposal
  - The Research Engagement Specialist will support engagement and recruitment of the Student Reference Group and additional advisors, seek and summarize feedback from community consultations, and develop a plan for ongoing network engagement.
  - Further support may be provided by staff members from the ISI office as required.

## **Frequency of Meetings**

The Steering Committee will establish a meeting and work schedule suitable to all of the members. It is anticipated that meetings will occur monthly and then more frequently near the end of the project.

## **Communication and Reporting**

The Chair of the Steering Committee will provide regular updates to the ISI Working Group and the Associate Vice-President & Vice-Provost, Strategic Initiatives (who reports directly to the Provost and Vice-President, Research and Innovation, and Strategic Initiatives), the Dean, Faculty of Medicine and Vice Provost, Relations with Health Care Institutions, and the Physician-in-Chief at CAMH. Updates will be provided to the broader U of T Community. The final proposal will be submitted to ISI on April 30, 2021.

## **Resources:**

- [Task Force Report](#)
- [Administrative Response](#)
- [Call for Steering Committee Members](#)