

# Mobile Health Outreach Bus Tillsonburg

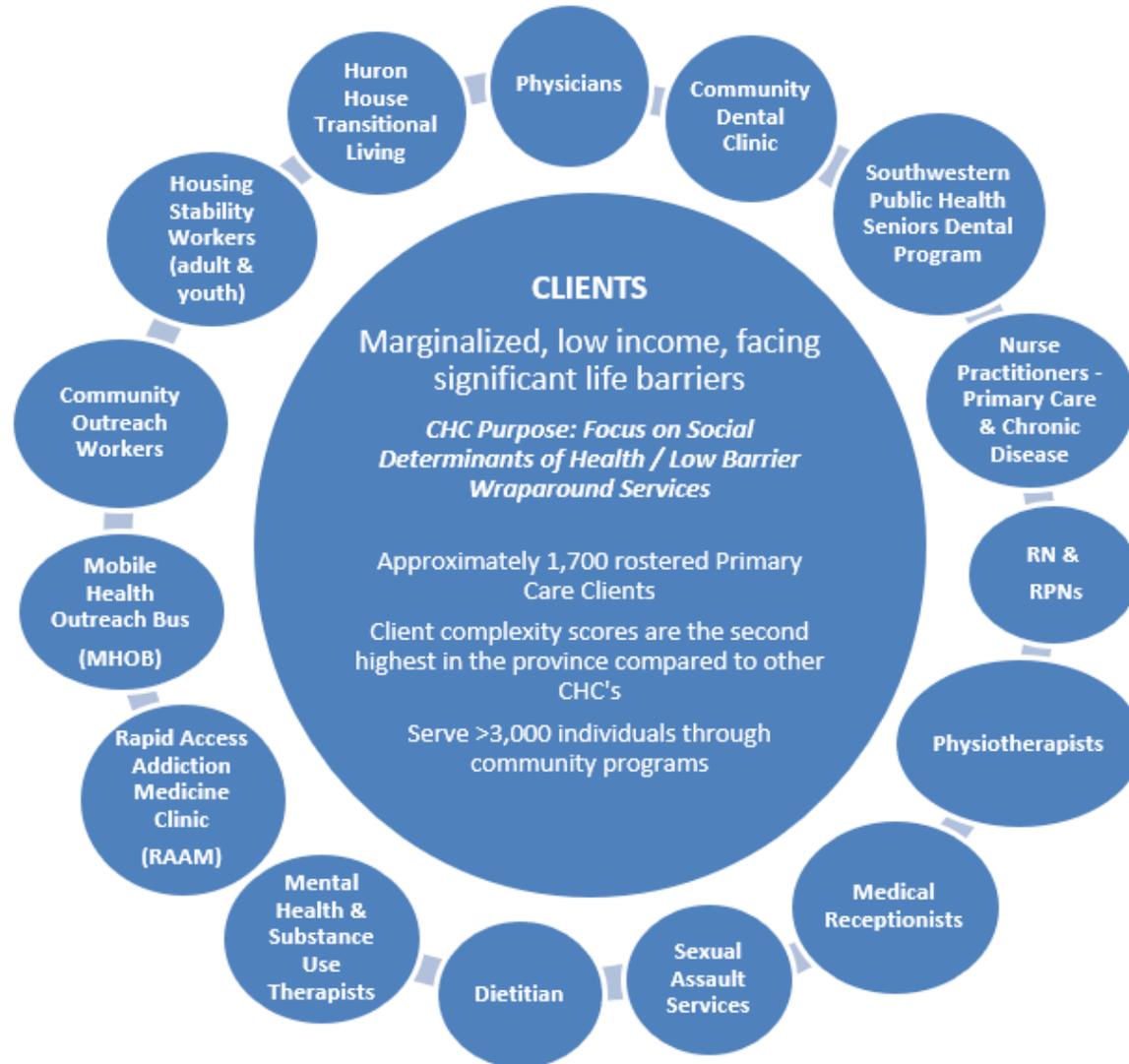
Abbie Boesterd, BSW, RSW

# Oxford County Community Health Centre

- ▶ The individuals we serve are typically marginalized, low income, facing significant life barriers
- ▶ CHC Purpose: Focus on Social Determinants of Health / Low Barrier Wraparound Services
- ▶ Not-for-profit Charitable organization funded by Ontario Health West (formerly South West Local Health Integration Network)
- ▶ Main centre located in Woodstock, with secondary point of access to Mental Health & Substance Use Therapy plus Community Outreach services in Tillsonburg

# OXFORD COUNTY COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTRE

## OVERVIEW 2022



# Mobile Health Outreach Bus

- ▶ MHOB launched in September 2020, funded via COVID 19 specific funding. Though we were not successful in continued funding subsequent to our pilot project, we recognized the value of this service and continued the MHOB with the support of community partners
- ▶ Tillsonburg specific
  - ▶ Every Wednesday from 11:00 am - 3:00 pm
  - ▶ Agencies involved include: OCCHC, CMHATV, Oxford County Human Services
  - ▶ At times we have utilized indoor space at Upper Deck Youth Centre and Tillsonburg Public Library



# Tillsonburg Data

- ▶ On average we connect with 30 - 40 individuals weekly
- ▶ Annual stats for fiscal year 2021/22: 790 encounters
- ▶ Most common request includes
  - ▶ Housing support
  - ▶ Mental Health support
  - ▶ Socks and hygiene items
  - ▶ Advocacy
  - ▶ Social interaction

*“First time meeting with the community outreach team, I thought that they were just out there cause they had to be. I quickly found out that they are there to help me. I feel they have really gone above and beyond what anyone would have expected! They have really helped me get connected to supports I never knew were available. They keep me accountable and are very supportive with anything I have going on in my life. Since connecting with them they have helped me and several others I knew needed help but were hesitant talking to anyone. I know 100% that they have found the help they need as well!” – Tillsonburg individual*



# Outreach Backpack



# Housing Stability

## ▶ Community Case Management

- ▶ Advocacy
- ▶ Housing system navigation
- ▶ Case Management
  - ▶ Individualized Support Plan (*Identifying & working through housing related barriers*)
  - ▶ Support to ensure a positive tenancy (rent paid on time, maintenance requests etc.)
- ▶ Elgin-Oxford Legal Clinic referrals
- ▶ Landlord mediation
- ▶ Home Visits
- ▶ Eviction Prevention
- ▶ Rapid Rehousing
- ▶ Welcome Home Kits/Furniture assistance



# Housing Stability

- ▶ Housing Support Worker 4 days/week in Tillsonburg
- ▶ Current Housing Support caseload
  - ▶ Actively supporting 30 individuals
    - ▶ 14 are housing seeking
    - ▶ 8 are housing stability
    - ▶ 8 are “need information” (not actively involved but respond to inquiries as appropriate)

# Future Plans - Transitional Living Program in Tillsonburg

## ▶ Background:

- ▶ Transitional Living is defined as the step between Homelessness and Permanent Housing - a wraparound approach to support & increase an individual's e.g. confidence, self-worth, aspects of daily life skills, goal-setting, etc.
- ▶ OCCHC currently provides a **Transitional Living Program** at “Huron House” in Woodstock - operational since 2020. 14 bedrooms. Common spaces. Shared Kitchen. Independent living up to one year of residence.
- ▶ The building is owned by a private landlord who is strongly connected to community
- ▶ OCCHC provides Full Time staff during the day, Monday through Friday

## ▶ Partnership Goal for Tillsonburg

- ▶ To mirror the success and outcomes demonstrated at Huron House in Tillsonburg on a modified scale - up to 8 individuals if possible
- ▶ United Way Oxford (UWO) is currently searching for suitable housing in Tillsonburg - UWO will be the owner
- ▶ OCCHC will then provide full Transitional Living Services - moving individuals from homelessness to safe permanent housing
- ▶ OCCHC continues to support individuals once they are moved to permanent housing - absolutely essential for continued individual success in achieving goals

# Mental Health & Substance Use Service in Tillsonburg

- ▶ OCCHC Mental Health & Addiction Services are available fulltime in Tillsonburg, located at The Livingston Centre.
- ▶ Mental Health and Addictions Therapist is available to anyone who is over 12 years old who lives in Tillsonburg.

# Outreach Services

- ▶ Outreach Services are available fulltime in Tillsonburg, located at The Livingston Centre
- ▶ Outreach can assist and support (though not limited to) the following
  - ▶ connecting to resources
  - ▶ obtaining or replacing identification
  - ▶ assisting with documentation and applications
  - ▶ advocacy
  - ▶ ensuring basic needs are met

# Contact Information

**Abbie Boesterd** BSW, RSW

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**Oxford County Community Health Centre**

Tillsonburg Point of Access

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# Questions

