



Youth Forensic Service

Mental Health and The Law

Natalie Genereux (Youth Forensic Service Coordinator)

Lindsay Sullivan (Registered Social Worker)

Why the need for youth forensic services?



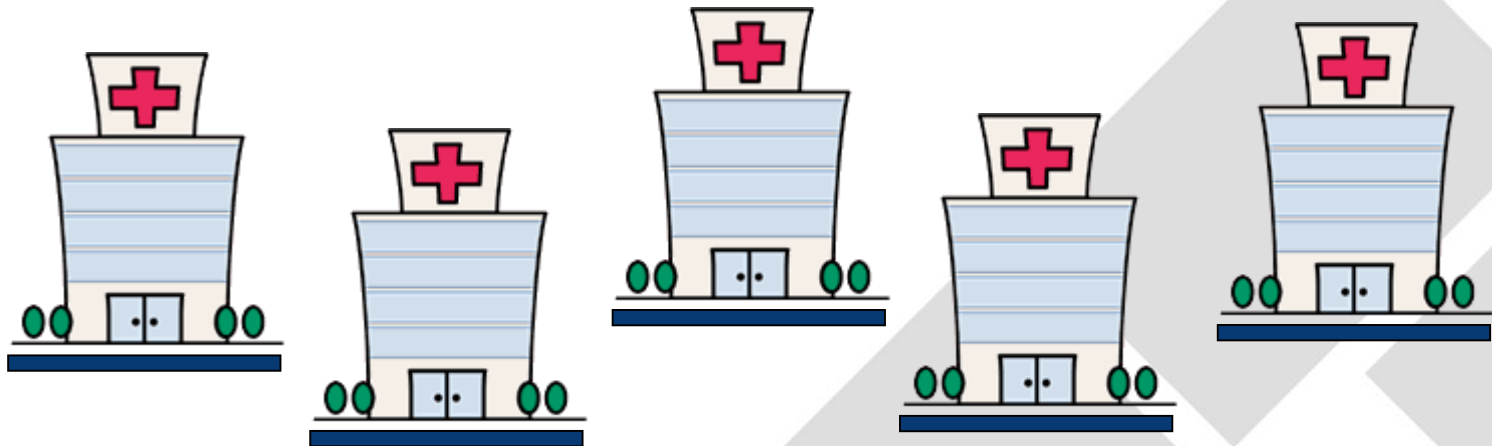
Catalyst for Action

Issues (2014)

- **Increase** in:
 - Courts across the province reporting more youth with complex needs and high risk offending behaviours.
 - Common disorders in youth such as conduct, mood and personality as well as more substance abuse and developmental disabilities.
- **Significant gaps** reported in mental health services for youth across the Northeast (extensive wait lists for mental health assessments and intensive support services).
- **Limited forensic services** for youth in the province, Syl Apps Youth & Secure Treatment Centre (Oakville) being the sole provider in Ontario.
- **Tragedy:** The death of a youth by suicide while in a detention facility led to the 2011 G.A. inquest, which identified the need for youth forensic services in our province.

Action

In 2014, the MOHLTC allocates funds to 5 forensic hospitals in Ontario to develop Youth Forensic Services across the province.



MOHLTC Guiding Principles

- **Location:** children and youth should be provided with effective services as close to home as possible.
- **Service Milieu:** children and youth will be served in the least restrictive and most developmentally appropriate milieu consistent with their clinical need, their safety and the safety of others.
- **Create the capacity for hospitalization:** considered as a measure of last resort.

Plan

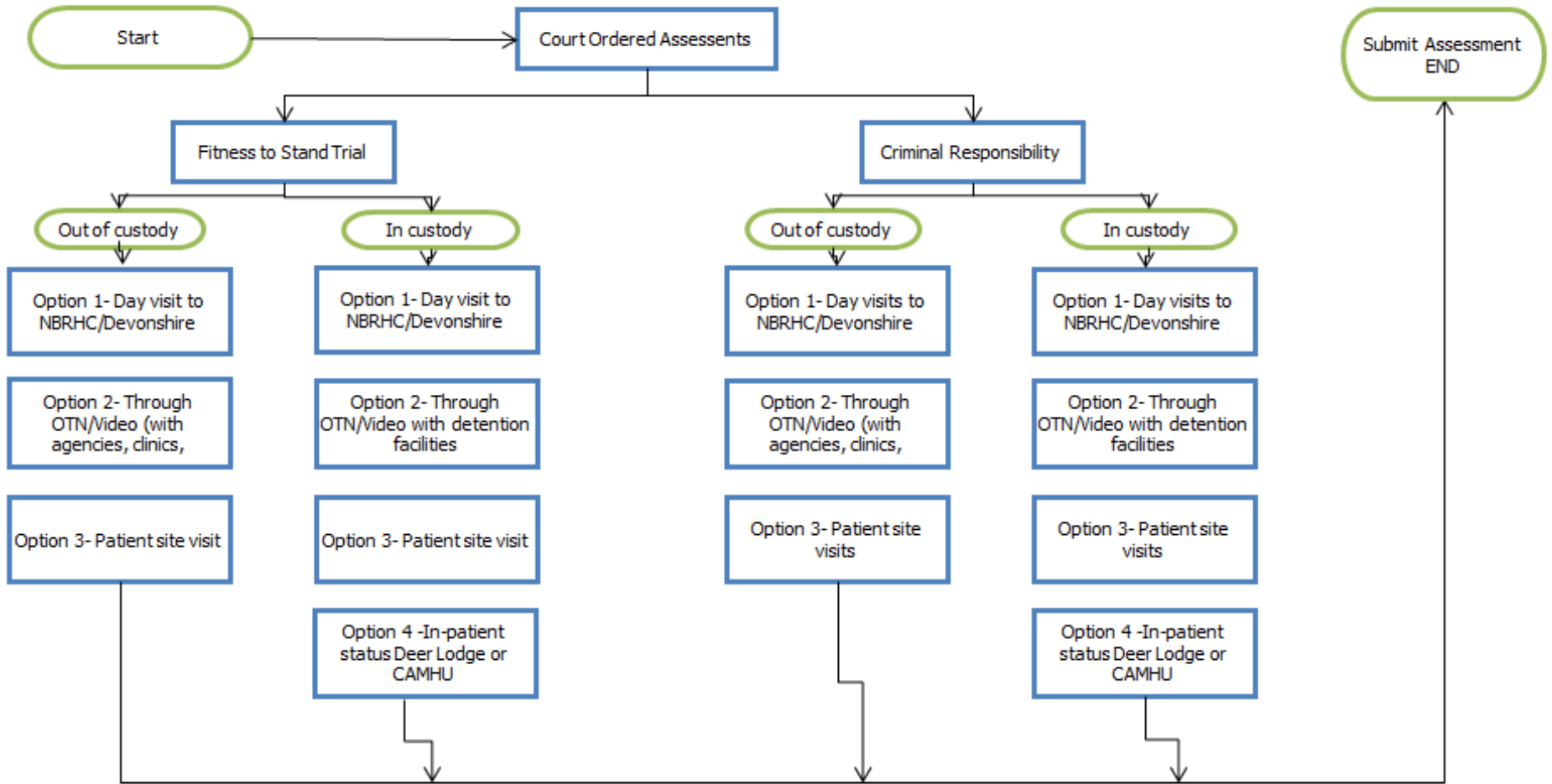
- **Create** partnerships with the MCYS, Justices & Community Mental Health Services
- **Utilize** video conferencing technology, OTN (Ontario Telemedicine Network)
- **Collaborate** between forensic program with child and adolescent mental health programs within hospitals to ensure that the youth forensic services complement, supplement and enhance existing services for children and youth

Youth Forensic Service Mandate

... provides court ordered assessments of Fitness to Stand Trial and Criminal Responsibility as well as Treatment Orders for youth (ages 12-18) across Northeast Ontario.

These assessments are in accordance with Part XX.1 (mental disorder) of the Criminal Code of Canada, and referenced in Section 141.10 of the Youth Criminal Justice Act.

Service Algorithm



Our Team & Partnerships

Full-time coordinator:

oversees all referrals and provides information and system navigation

Designated Forensic Psychiatrist and a Child & Adolescent Psychiatrist:
collaborates to conduct the assessments

Social worker

Telemedicine services

Professional disciplines in psychology, behaviour therapy, social work, occupational therapy and nursing -- consultations, as required

In-patient healthcare teams

Youth justice partners

(court workers, MCYS justice services, community agencies)

Outcomes and Benefits

- **Focus** on ensuring youth receive fair treatment
- **Use** forensic assessments to serve as an early identification tool
- **Recommend** appropriate treatment and rehabilitation options through the courts
- **Expedite** court processes through immediate and individualized assessments
- **Reduce** psychosocial and emotional impacts caused by displacement

Outcomes and Benefits

- Outcomes of this service will provide evidence based statistics on the need for additional youth forensic services in our province.
- For the youth found NCR or unfit and subject to an ORB disposition order, the YFS will serve as the linkage to a forensic hospital and access to ongoing treatment and clinical services.

Case Study

- 14 year old male from Northern, Ontario
- Arrested by police for erratic behaviours
- Brought to a youth detention facility

Before our Service....

- Removed from home community and family support and sent to Syl Apps in Oakville, Ontario
- Removed from school and peers
- Additional stressors related to being in an unfamiliar community, and away from supports
- Increased travel to attend court hearings
- Travel for the family and additional stress due to distance away from their son

Because of Our Service...

- Immediate service delivery
- He could remain his home community
- Access to family and peer support
- Access to homework from his own school close by
- Early engagement with community supports
- Collaborative network of community partners

How to Contact the YFS?

Natalie Généreux, Coordinator

Telephone: 705 474-8600 ext. 3455

Facsimile: 705 495-7964

Cell: 705 477-5108

Natalie.genereux@nbrhc.on.ca