

NorthBEAT Collaborative: Q&A

February 15, 2018



NorthBEAT
COLLABORATIVE

SUPPORTED BY ST. JOSEPH'S CARE GROUP
& ONTARIO TRILLIUM FOUNDATION

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1. What is NorthBEAT?

The NorthBEAT Collaborative —funded by the Ontario Trillium Foundation Youth Opportunities Fund and sponsored by the Centre for Applied Health Research at St. Joseph's Care Group— is a strategic systems collaborative that will make it easier for youth with psychosis to get the services they need, when they need them.

What is the history of NorthBEAT?

The NorthBEAT (Barriers to Early Assessment and Treatment) Project was a descriptive research project, funded by the Sick Kids Foundation in partnership with the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) from 2012-2015, that explored the service needs of adolescents who experience psychosis in Northern Ontario.

In 2016, NorthBEAT expanded its scope to address barriers to early psychosis intervention and improve Early Psychosis Intervention (EPI) services. This is when the NorthBEAT Collaborative was born.

What type of initiative is this?

The NorthBEAT Collaborative is a capacity-building initiative, and is not intended to duplicate or replace any existing services or programs. Though NorthBEAT cannot fund programs or direct client care, it will support existing programs and services through knowledge sharing, resource development, and helping to address the convoluted pathways to care that youth and their families may experience.

2. What is the NorthBEAT Collaborative going to do?

The NorthBEAT Collaborative has been established to improve the system of care which centres around youth who experience psychosis—and their families/caregivers.

Youth with psychosis in Northwestern Ontario do not get the help they need, when they need it. We're going to change that.

What “system” will be shifted?

The “system” NorthBEAT will shift is a multi-sectoral system of care that includes the diverse agencies, organizations, and care providers that serve and interact with youth—basically, anyone youth and families would turn to for help if they were experiencing psychosis. Our goal is to make every door the right door.

How will the system be “shifted”?

We plan to “shift” the existing system of care by building capacity within Northwestern Ontario to recognize psychosis and intervene appropriately. We will do this by sharing and adapting existing resources, as well as co-creating eLearning modules which will then be integrated by members into their organizational staff training processes.

Who will lead this change?

Dr. Chiachen (Chi) Cheng is the NorthBEAT Lead. The NorthBEAT Coordinating team—sponsored by the Centre for Applied Health Research at St. Joseph’s Care Group— will assume responsibility for the daily operations and coordination of the NorthBEAT Collaborative activities.

3. Who is involved in the NorthBEAT Collaborative?

The NorthBEAT Collaborative is made up of youth, families, researchers and service providers across Northern Ontario with an interest in improving the system of care for youth with psychosis.

Who is part of it?

The Collaborative is made up of service providers from a variety of sectors, including but not limited to mental health, health care, police and emergency services, education, children and youth services, social and community services. These sectors were approached based on feedback from youth and families who participated in the original NorthBEAT research project. They told us that they turned to various places for help, and were often turned away or not connected to the right care.

What about all of the people who are not in the room?

It is important to us—and to Collaboratives in general—that we try to bridge as many gaps as possible. If any existing members of the Collaborative are able to help connect us to organizations that are not signed on, please let us know.

Send us an email, anytime: northbeat@tbh.net

4. What are the expectations of signed members?

Collaborative members are being asked to share their time and champion policy updates within their organization. As outlined in the signed agreements, the members on the Collaborative will: be asked to sit on different working groups ("constellations"), contribute to service mapping, resource development, and sharing.

What will this look like, practically?

The day-to-day impact of joining the Collaborative is limited. Members will participate in monthly or bimonthly constellation meetings (in-person or tele-/video-conference), and attend one in-person Knowledge Exchange workshop per year—totalling less than 20 hours per year. In addition to these direct interactions, Members will work behind the scenes within their own organizations to see the training modules included in their organizational training processes and share resources or new connections from the Collaborative.

Will members have to pay for anything?

No. Travel expenses and any supply costs incurred as a result of you or your organization's involvement in the NorthBEAT Collaborative will be paid for via the grant. All the resources created will be available free of charge, including the eLearning modules which will be made available via a user-friendly Learning Management System.

5. Where will the funds be allocated?

The NorthBEAT Collaborative is funded by the Ontario Trillium Foundation Youth Opportunities Fund. The funding will support our efforts to improve connections between sectors, redesign existing resources, and build the capacity of multisectoral service providers to recognize early psychosis and intervene appropriately.

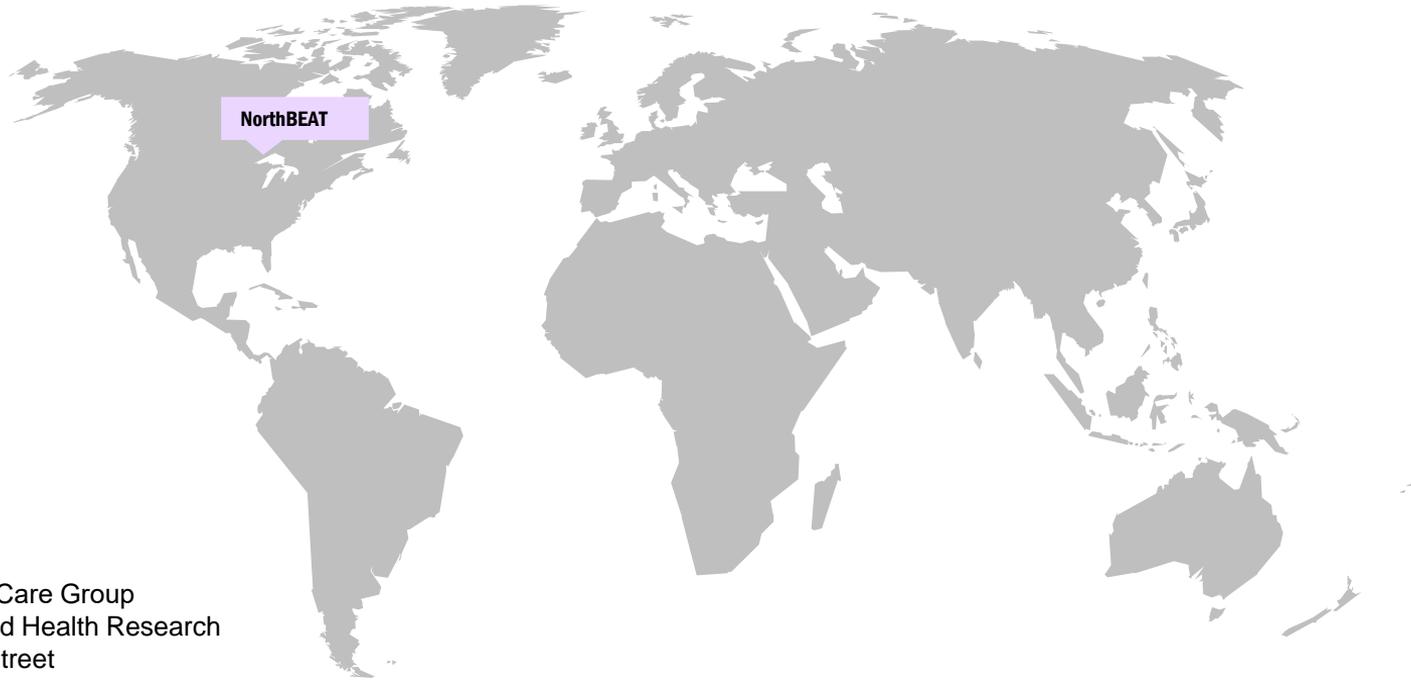
Will the funding be used for service delivery?

Unfortunately, no. Rather than reinventing the wheel, the funding will be used to connect the dots of what already exists. This funding will increase the capacity of existing programs and services to help youth access the services they need when they need it by ensuring training and resources are easily available and free to the public.

What are some examples of expenses?

One of the advantages of this funding stream is that we have a realistic budget for travel costs for in-person meetings within our region. In addition to meetings and travel, the funding will be used for expenses such as personnel costs, eLearning design and development, and to cover a Learning Management System (LMS) and other tools that will be available to the Collaborative.

Contact Us



NorthBEAT
c/o St. Joseph's Care Group
Centre for Applied Health Research
580 N. Algoma Street
Thunder Bay, ON P7A 5G4
Phone: 807.346.3693
Email: northbeat@tbh.net