



March 2, 2017

Ian Chesney
Policy Advisor
Office of the Hon. Dr. Eric Hoskins
Minister of Health and Long-Term Care

Jennifer Shiller
Senior Policy Advisor
Office of the Hon. Dr. Eric Hoskins
Minister of Health and Long-Term Care

Dear Mr. Chesney and Ms. Shiller,

Thank you for meeting with the Ontario Association of Child and Youth Care on February 24, 2017. We appreciate the opportunity you have given us to present our report and our concerns about the Psychotherapy Act and its potential impact on the provision of services to young people in Ontario.

We discussed the repercussions of making Psychotherapy a Controlled Act, while not regulating the practice of Child and Youth Care, as being significant. If Child and Youth Care Practice remains unregulated, Child and Youth Care Practitioners (CYCPs) will no longer be able to perform this said act. In response, waitlists will grow further and potential vulnerable and high risk children and youth will increase in the risk that they pose to themselves and others. The specialized skill set of the CYCP will be at risk of being delivered to those whose needs are already difficult to serve. Subsequently, the employment of over 10,000 CYCPs currently employed in Ontario, and the 1,000 annual graduates from the 24 CYC College/University programs in Ontario, will also be at risk.

During our meeting, we made three specific requests of the Minister's Office.

1. To provide us with a description, including definitions of "Psychotherapy Technique".
2. To provide an exemption for all Child and Youth Care Practitioners from the Psychotherapy Act provided they have completed a degree or diploma in Child and Youth Care, are members of the provincial association (OACYC), that they have committed to the code of ethics, complete yearly professional development activities, and work within the scope of practice of Child and Youth Care.
3. To regulate the field of Child and Youth Care in the interests of public safety.

We recognize that our first two requests are likely to be resolved in the short term while the request for regulation involves a process that requires a great deal of time. We appreciate your offer to support our efforts in requesting regulation. During our meeting you offered to connect us to Thomas Corcoran at the HPRAC informally for information sharing and an opportunity to explore the requirements to become a regulated health profession. You also offered to help us to build our team of allies by sending formal letters of introduction to the Ministries of Education (Early Years and Child Care), Community and Social Services and Child and Youth Services.



We have since been informed that Minister Hoskins is aware of our concerns and has no intention of proclaiming the Psychotherapy Act until a positive resolution is found to ensure that Child and Youth Care Practitioners continue to work; meet their scope of practice; and provide ongoing services to children and youth across Ontario. We are pleased to receive this message and look forward to direct communication with your office as we move forward to identify that positive resolution. It would be most helpful if the Ministers office could provide us with a letter to share with all concerned parties, including our members and the mental health community, stating current intentions.

Sincerely,

Christine Gaitens, BA CYC (Cert) CYC-P
President of the Board
Ontario Association of Child & Youth Care

Cc Hon. Dr. Eric Hoskins