

June 30, 2017

RE: Regulation of the Child and Youth Care Profession

I am writing to support the work of the OACYC to petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario to pass and enact legislation that will regulate the practice of child and youth care in Ontario.

CMHO's members—nearly 100 of Ontario's child and youth mental health centres—serve children and youth with the most severe and complex mental health issues. Not only are these young people exceptionally vulnerable as a result, but the outward manifestations of these issues can make caring for these young particularly challenging.

These children and youth—and all children and youth in Ontario—have the right to consistent and high quality care, that helps them stay safe and get better. Fundamental to ensuring this right is upheld is to support them with a team of highly-trained, regulated professionals, with the necessary range of expertise.

We consistently hear from our members that child and youth care practitioners play a critical role in the care and treatment of young people requiring mental health support. However, child and youth care practitioners remain unregulated. This means that child and youth care practitioners employed in our member agencies are not required to possess particular educational credentials, are not required to engage ongoing continuing education, and are not required to meet to formal standards of practice.

As such, this lack of regulation of the child and youth care profession increases the vulnerability of the already vulnerable children and youth served in our agencies.

The regulation of the child and youth care profession is in the best interests of children, youth, and families. It will give surety to the fact that our children and youth will be cared for by qualified workers.

I sincerely hope that children, youth and families of Ontario can count on your support for high-quality care.

Sincerely,



Kimberly Moran,
CEO
Children's Mental Health Ontario