

January 12, 2010

Dear CDON members:

Program managers, clinicians and people working in prevention services and other planning and policy-related aspects of children services have highlighted the need for more evidence-based practice with respect to screening and assessment of mental health and substance use-related problems. The need is probably even more pressing with children and adolescents than with adults, given the evidence that early recognition and treatment of substance use (and probably mental disorders) can reduce the length and outcome of the individual's overall treatment trajectory.

The Youth and Concurrent Disorders Screening Tools project was designed to produce research synthesis and advice that will help program managers and clinicians choose appropriate, well-validated, screening tools for this population. This involved the development of a prioritized list of tools with clear articulation of the strengths, weaknesses and recommendations around their use. We are pleased to provide you with a copy of the final plain language report "Screening for Concurrent Substance Use and Mental Health Problems in Youth".

We hope that you find this report useful and that you will promote to your community colleagues and contacts. It will be a valuable tool for youth-focused service providers in mental health, addictions and allied health, education, justice and social service partners. Print copies are limited, so please encourage others to access the online version of this report. It is available on the CAMH Knowledge Exchange Website at:
http://knowledgex.camh.net/amhspecialists/Screening_Assessment/screening/screen_CD_youth/Pages/default.aspx

Please note that this resource is only available in English. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Suzanne Witt-Foley at 705.645.7233 or Suzanne_wittfoley@camh.net.

Best regards,

The Screening for Concurrent Disorders in Youth Project Team