



**MDSC/Canadian Community Mental Health Network (CCMHN)
Monthly Meeting Minutes**

Date: September 16, 2024

Location: Teams

Link to next meeting (Oct 21, 12:30 p.m. ET): [here](#)

Attendees:

- Ken Porter
- Sharla Robertson
- Jacqui Wasacase
- Brad Glynn
- Martin Boucher
- Gary Thandi

Opening Remarks:

- The meeting commenced with general greetings and updates from team members on their personal and work-related activities.

Agenda Items:

1. Budget and Funding Initiatives:
 - The focus was on the pre-budget consultation submission where \$50 million over five years is requested to establish a community mental health fund.
 - Updates to come on the ongoing advocacy campaign aimed at engaging MPs to support mental health funding.
2. MIRA:
 - Discussion about the integration of AI in mental health support and the ongoing development of a conversational AI model to improve accessibility to mental health resources.
3. Access to Medication:
 - Review of the Access Project and the challenges in timely access to medications for mental illness.
4. Roundtable on Mental Health:
 - Outcomes from the recent roundtable discussion with health system experts, highlighting recommendations for improving transparency and patient engagement.
5. Advocacy and Partnerships:
 - Introduction of Santis Health as the new government relations firm to assist in advocacy efforts.
 - Plans for upcoming advocacy days aimed at meeting MPs to further mental health initiatives.



6. Workshops and Training Opportunities:

- Announcement of the 90-minute virtual workshop by Realize on social inclusion for people with HIV and disabilities.

Next Meeting:

- Scheduled for the third Monday of the following month, continuing the regular meeting schedule. October 21, 2024. 12:30 pm et.

Adjournment:

- Meeting concluded with closing remarks and expressions of enthusiasm for upcoming projects and collaborations.