Halton Regional Police Service

Cst. Nadine Boateng – Senior Support Officer

Cst. Kris Elliot - COAST

Mental Health Act – Police

Trust & Respect *Integrity* *Accountability* *Excellence* *Teamwork* *Justice*

Progress Through Participation

Role of the Senior Support Officer

- Coordinate the Service's proactive response to seniors and vulnerable adult issues
- Develop and maintain an effective working relationship with community senior support service organizations and vulnerable adult service organizations and;

Role of the Senior Support Officer

- Develop and implement educational programs to address police related issues and public concerns relating to seniors and vulnerable adult issues.

- Oversee the S.A.L.T and Halton Seniors Helpline Volunteers.
- Review all occurrences that involve seniors.
- HEAPS – Chair of Halton Elder Abuse Prevention Committee

What does that mean?

- The Senior Support Officer is the liaison for Halton Regional Police to the public and service providers for all forms of Elder Abuse.

What is the COAST Program?

Goal: To enable individuals in crisis who have a serious mental illness, to remain safely within their own environment, by providing a range of accessible services that include outreach assessments, support and interventions to prevent further crises.

Mandate: Divert from hospital. Divert from the justice system

Funding: CMHA and Ontario Ministry of Health. Local Health Integration Network (LHIN)

Origins of COAST

- Car 87 Vancouver
- COAST Hamilton 1999

Began as a result of a coroner's inquest recommendation on Zachary Antidormi case.

- COAST Halton 2006

Zachary Antidormi

- Lived with his parents in Hamilton
- Paranoid neighbour was obsessed with the idea that her son had to die for Zachary to be born
- Parents/police unable to stop ongoing harassment by neighbour
- Was stabbed 10 times and killed by this neighbour on March 27, 1997 while he played in neighbourhood
- He was 2 ½ years old

Zachary Antidormi
1994 - 1997

Lucia Piovesan–Zachary's Killer

- Began showing signs of paranoid schizophrenia in her 30s
- Entered a psychiatric hospital for the first time at about 40
  - No longer deemed an immediate risk and was discharged with a prescription
  - Bottles of unopened anti-psychotic drugs were found in home
- Known to police; many calls from neighbourhood
- Believed she was "**doing God's work**" when she stabbed and killed Zachary

Zachary Antidormi
1994 - 1997

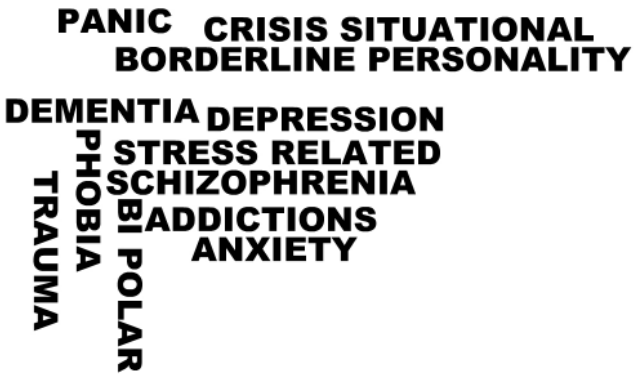
The COAST Team in Halton

- Health care workers and police officers trained in mental health and crisis intervention work together.

Mental Illness

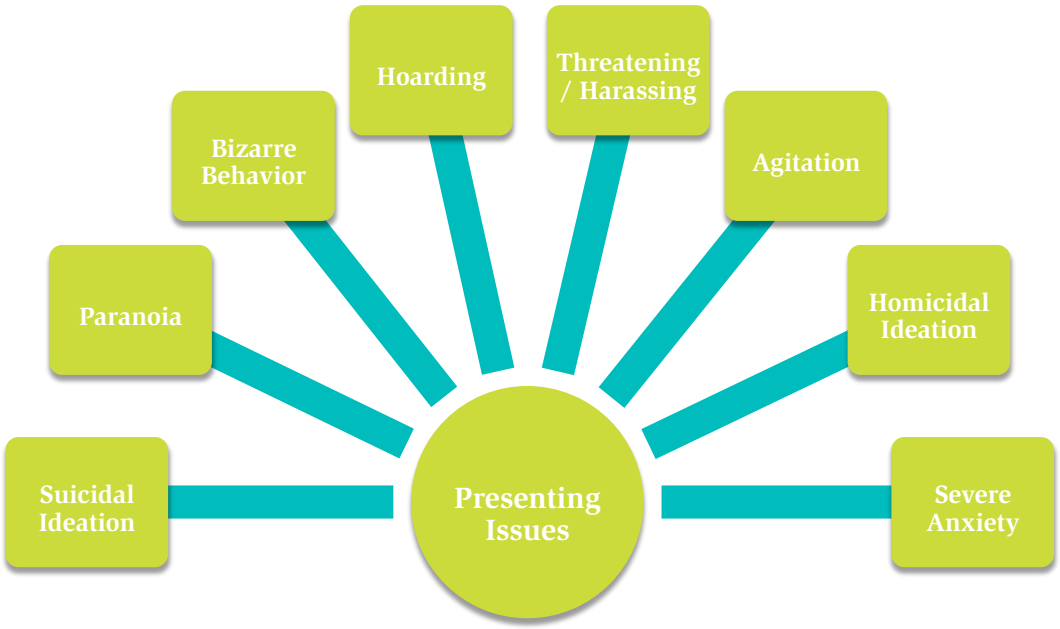
MENTAL ILLNESS: A term used to refer to a variety of mental disorders that can be diagnosed. Mental disorders are health conditions that are characterized by alternations in thinking, mood, or behavior (or some combination thereof) associated with distress and/or impaired functioning.

Source: Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA).



Mental Illness – What You See/Don't See

Mental Illness



Emergency

An unexpected and usually dangerous situation that calls for immediate action.

Persons who work with the public, especially in a law enforcement setting, often encounter persons struggling with mental illness.

Mental Illness – We all have problems

Mental Illness by the Numbers-Halton

HRPS 2013	
Average Number of Suicide (incl. attempts) & General Mental Health calls per day	5
Average # of Officer-Hrs. on Suicide (incl. attempts) & General MH (2013) per call	6.5
Average number of mental health related occurrences per day	6.7
Average cost attributed to mental health	$657,759

1st Qtr 2014 MHS Occurrence Regional Stats			
	2013	2014	% Increase
Suicide + Attempt	76	128	67%
Mental Health Occ.	326	400	23%
Total MHA Calls	402	528	31%

Ontario Mental Health Act

- The **Ontario Mental Health Act** (OMHA) is an Ontario law which regulates the administration of Mental Health Care. The main purpose of the law is t regulate the involuntary admission of people into a psychiatric hospital. This order is intended to provide comprehensive treatment outside of a psychiatric facility.

ONTARIO MENTAL HEALTH ACT

Under the *Mental Health Act* a person may be admitted to a psychiatric facility as a patient in one of the following ways

Voluntary patient	Informal patient	Involuntary patient	Under court order

Voluntary Patient

Anyone in Ontario may be admitted voluntarily to a psychiatric facility if, in the opinion of a physician, he or she is in need of psychiatric care and her or she is willing to be hospitalized for psychiatric assessment and treatment.

Involuntarily Admitted

- Three common ways that a person may be involuntarily admitted to a psychiatric facility in Ontario for a 72 hour observation period.

(1) Police brings person to physician

(2) Person lays information before Justice of Peace

(3) Physician orders assessment

Involuntary or Court Order Admission

Ontario MHA provides authority under certain circumstances

- Physicians; Justices of the Peace; and Police

SECTION 17 – ACTION BY POLICE OFFICER

- Reasonable grounds to believe that because of a mental disorder person presents as a
  - harm to self
  - harm to others
  - incapable of self care
- Police can apprehend a person and take them to a Schedule 1 hospital (JB and OTMH)

COMMUNITY TREATMENT ORDERS

Conditions by which a person with a mental disorder is permitted to return to the community from a hospital.

The person agrees to abide by the conditions in the order established by his treatment team and the person themselves.

Can include pharmacological interventions as well as where a person may live and who they associate with.

Crisis

A difficult or dangerous situation that needs serious attention.

Without intervention can become a situation requiring an emergency response.

Mental Health Act - Forms

Application by Physician for a Psychiatric Assessment	**1**	**2**	**Order for Examination - Justice of the Peace**
Order for Return - Officer in charge of Psychiatric Facility	**9**	**47**	**Order for Examination – Physician who issued or renewed the Community Treatment Order**

Thank you

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