

THE GEORGE HULL CENTRE FOR CHILDREN & FAMILIES

ANNUAL REPORT

2021-2022

**PUTTING OUR CLIENTS
AT THE CENTRE OF CARE**



**Transforming the way professionals
approach the treatment of children.**

and more!



GEORGE HULL CENTRE
FOR CHILDREN & FAMILIES

**Changing the
trajectory of children's
mental health.**



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“We are very impressed with the amount of time and expense to assist an individual to succeed.”

PARTICIPANT, FAMILY GROUP CONFERENCING PROGRAM



About the centre

The George Hull Centre regards each child as an individual, a member of a family and a member of the community. The George Hull Centre works in partnership with families and children, with other community services and with community groups to improve the mental health of the children and youth of Toronto.

The Centre works to develop an accessible, flexible, and responsive continuum of service delivery for the community, and to provide specialized services for the Greater Toronto Area, as mandated.

A commitment to gender equality, cultural sensitivity and accessible economic opportunities provides an organizing framework to the philosophy of the Centre. The Centre takes into account imbalances of power as they exist in the culture and as they affect the lives of children, and advocates accordingly on behalf of marginalized groups.

Our Vision

Mental wellness from infancy through to adulthood.

Our Mission

Through clinical excellence and a continuum of mental health services, our mission is to reduce suffering, provide hope and enhance the quality of life of infants, children, youth, and families.

Our Values

Innovation:

Creativity in programming and therapy.

Empathy:

Understanding without judgement.

Passion:

Doing whatever it takes to make a positive difference.

Excellence:

Striving for outstanding clinical care, leadership and professionalism.

Holistic View:

Improving children's lives within the context of their families, communities and systems.

Diversity:

Acknowledging, respecting, including and reflecting the communities we serve.



Message from the Executive Director & Chair of the Board of Directors

As I reflect on another busy and successful year at the George Hull Centre, I think of how our mission to achieve children's mental wellness has followed the trajectory of the pandemic.

Whether it's depression due to the isolation and loss of social connections, new mental health issues developed during the pandemic, or escalating anxiety about returning to normal life for those who had suffered before COVID - many continue to struggle.

In the last year, helping children and youth navigate this difficult period of change and uncertainty has become an important focus for the Centre.

As with every challenge we remain committed to providing quality service and space for our clients and employees to thrive. In this Annual Report, we are pleased to share our many accomplishments which were guided by the four objectives of our 2021-23 Strategic Plan: *Lower Barriers to Care, One Client, One Centre, Become a Leading Voice, and Diversity That Reflects Our Community.*

We are particularly proud of our outstanding efforts in the area of diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI). From Intensive DEI and ABR (Anti-black racism) Leadership training to creating an all-staff DEI pledge to our first-ever trauma-informed collaborative care program for Black children and youth to the appointment of the Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion - we keep advancing towards our goal of creating an inclusive organization where everybody has a place.

As a centre of clinical excellence, last year we continued to honour our 'Become a Leading Voice' pillar by engaging in cutting-edge research, developing new training and implementing innovative treatments to ensure we deliver the best possible care for our clients.

One example is the amazing work by our Institute of Childhood Trauma and Attachment. Only in its second year, the Institute provided critical training to nearly a thousand front-line practitioners on the best practices of working with and assessing children who have experienced trauma.

Its groundbreaking research into the connection between trauma and impaired communication informed new training for speech and language practitioners, to provide them with much-needed knowledge and tools for early trauma identification. We are excited to see how this approach to treating children with speech and language needs will change the landscape of mental health and speech pathology worldwide.

Thanks to new funding we continued to grow, extending our reach to more communities and training more practitioners that support those in need. We implemented a new program, the R.I.T.E.S. Collaborative, and expanded the ones already available, like The Brief Services, a program for partner agencies wishing to develop a 3 - 8 session model of short-term trauma intervention. We were able to hire more social, child and youth workers for our community clinic, which has been very helpful to our clients.

I have my dedicated staff to thank for this success. We have asked a lot of them during this difficult time, and I'm very impressed by how they have continued to prioritize the children and families at the Centre.

And of course, we wouldn't be here sharing these achievements if not for our wonderful donors. Your ongoing support makes it possible for us to touch the lives of many vulnerable children, giving them a new future free of suffering.

Together, we are changing the trajectory of children's mental health - one program, one research project and one training session at a time.



Susan Chamberlain
Executive Director

Bradley Fedosoff
Chair, Board of Directors



Mental Health Treatment Programs

Our skilled and experienced team of mental health professionals work together to provide highly responsive, integrated care. Through innovative, evidence-based treatment and programs and an unwavering commitment to clinical excellence, we help infants, children, youth and families achieve mental wellness.

Our skilled and experienced teams



Community Clinic

The Community Clinic offers services to families with children and youth from birth through 18 who are experiencing significant emotional, behavioural, social, developmental and/or psychiatric difficulties. Staff includes psychiatrists, psychologists, social workers, and child and youth workers.

637
served

73%
Improved CAFAS® score

274
group participants

Libby's Place

Libby's Place offers both residence and treatment for its six residents, ages 12-18, with an emphasis on relationship-based programming. The highly structured program emphasizes and uses both individual and group strengths, suitable for teenage girls who many were struggling with a variety of mental health challenges, including emotional distress and behavioral issues. The therapeutic milieu includes group therapy, group and individual activities, group tasks, and chores. It also includes individual meetings with an assigned child and youth worker.

8
served

75%
Improved CAFAS® score

Day Treatment Program

The Day Treatment Program offers academic and therapeutic programming to children and youth in five classrooms. Two of these classrooms are for students in grades 6-8, and are located at Dixon Grove Junior Intermediate School, and three of the classrooms are for students in grades 9-12 and are located at Western Technical Commercial School.

48
served

67%
Improved CAFAS® score

Intensive In-Home Service

The Intensive In-Home Service provides comprehensive therapeutic services to adolescents and families with complex mental health needs in the context of their own homes. The IIHS team works with the most challenging situations and with all members of the family to keep families together and prevent family breakdown.

16
served

80%
Improved CAFAS® score

Child and Adolescent Functional Assessment Scale (CAFAS®) is used at the beginning and end of treatment to assess client function on a number of dimensions. The scores reflected "youth improvement at discharge".

"I think that the amount of really practical skills was really helpful. I also think that the reality acceptance, ride the wave, self validation skills were really helpful for me. They were basically the first experiences I had where I was able to allow myself to feel things fully and accept those feelings, rather than feeling like I needed to ignore them or push them aside."

COMMUNITY CLINIC CLIENT

"It made me feel like I wasn't alone, and it made me feel more normal."

CHILD – CBT ANXIETY GROUP

"Amazing support and a deep understanding about the struggles my child is going through. The focus was not only on academics and staff helped us prioritise mental health."

PARENT OF CHILD PARTICIPANT

"I am now able to go into a mainstream class and school without feeling overwhelmed. I feel accepted by other kids. Lastly, I feel more comfortable in my body."

CHILD PARTICIPANT

The appointment of the Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, R.I.T.E.S. Program

tops a year marked by great progress in the area of DEI

“At the George Hull Centre, we believe in standing together for racial justice, diversity, equity and inclusion”.

So begins the diversity, equity, and inclusion pledge our leadership team has created and shared with all staff after an 18-month intensive Anti-Oppression Practice training.

For us, these are not just words. Our ongoing commitment to making the George Hull Centre a more equitable and accepting community, where every child and employee can thrive, underpins everything we do. Guided by

our Strategic Plan's pillar of 'Diversity that reflects our community', we achieved a lot last year.

An inspiring example is the **R.I.T.E.S. Collaborative, the first of its kind coordinated care program for Black youth (ages 13-17) and their families** in Northwest Toronto, developed in collaboration with the Central Toronto Youth Services (CTYS).





We knew that there was a need for mental health services in this area due to a lack of trust in social services and the longstanding stigma of mental illness within the community. People needed our support, but they were not seeking help. By connecting our clinically trained social workers with the R.I.T.E.S. group leaders who work with racialized children and families, we were able to identify challenges and refer people for treatment much earlier.

We are excited to be a part of this project as **this is the first time that the George Hull Centre, or any children's mental health service provider in our area, has focused on addressing the needs of a racialized community, specifically from a trauma perspective.** To support this approach, our Institute of Childhood Trauma and Attachment has designed a new assessment tool to screen clients for traumatic racialized experiences. To our knowledge, this information has never been collected before.

We are proud that last year we were able to implement this program and achieve our goals despite the pandemic: our two R.I.T.E.S. clinicians have seen 25 client families. We anticipate being able to provide meaningful evaluation data in August 2022, which will inform our next step - bringing this unique program to younger children in middle school.

We don't just focus on our clients when it comes to DEI.

As an organization, we are working towards creating a culture of learning and improvement through reflecting on DEI and anti-racism. All our staff attends Anti-Oppression Practices training so we can better understand how to effectively support the children and families we serve. We appreciate that by having these open discussions, understanding, and accepting each other, communicating and supporting each other's professional goals, we have more to give to the diverse range of clients that we are serving and are hoping to serve.

We are so pleased to finish this year on a high note. The appointment of the Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, R.I.T.E.S. Program, a new role for the Centre, will no doubt multiply knowledge and our efforts in reaching more children and families facing adversity.

There's much to celebrate but still, there's so much to accomplish. Exciting plans for the future include implementing annual, staff-wide DEI refresher training, bringing conversations about race to our hiring process, and communicating to all applicants what's important to us and what we stand for.

We recognize that this work is ongoing, and we are committed to continuing to devote more attention and resources to advancing diversity, equity, inclusion, and dismantling racism. ■

I feel like our main achievement is that the communities feel included. So many models of care are Euro-centric in nature, and they don't fit just everybody. With the R.I.T.E.S. program, when you have racialized staff working with racialized clients and families, you know that they are bringing some of their expertise and traditions to the process, that's outside of what's considered a normative model.

KAREN MIGHTY

Director, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion,
R.I.T.E.S. Program

Prevention & Early Intervention Services



Early Abilities Pre-School Speech and Language

Children begin communicating at an early age. Through communication with important people in their lives, children experience the positive relationships that help them feel secure and ready to explore and learn. Speech-Language Pathologists and other professionals in our Early Abilities Preschool Speech and Language Program work with parents/caregivers and their young children to change their interactions in ways that improve children's communication skills.

1,605
children served



EarlyON

Our EarlyON Centre invites all families to learn and play together in our parent-child drop-in programs, parenting groups, fun activities and kindergarten readiness classes, all designed to support early learning and strong parent-child relationships; essential foundations for the promotion of infant and early childhood mental health.

Virtual Programs – parents and children
1,370 sessions

2,598
In person visits



Etobicoke Brighter Futures Coalition

When whole communities come together for young children, they are more able to experience, learn and grow in a safe and healthy environment. Led by the George Hull Centre, the Etobicoke Brighter Futures Coalition (EBFC) is a collaboration of more than 20 community agencies, that works together to plan, develop, and deliver services that improve the health and well-being of vulnerable young children within the context of their families and their communities. EBFC builds the capacity of local service providers to address the needs of vulnerable families and their young children through collaborative programming, resource sharing, professional development, and collective planning.

862 parents

701 children



Every Child Belongs

Every child should be able to attend a high-quality childcare centre in their community that meets their unique early learning and care needs. Early signs of social and emotional development concerns in young children are often seen as behaviour problems and many children who are struggling do not receive the type of support they need, when they need it. The Every Child Belongs Program provides consultation, support and resources to licensed childcare centres to ensure that every child can be successful.

34
served

2
program consultations



Family Group Conferencing of Toronto

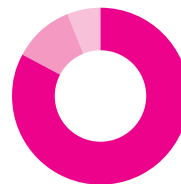
When family relationships break down and children's well-being and safety are at risk, Family Group Conferencing (FGC) is a program that gives the extended family group a voice in the decision-making and planning process to ensure the safety and well-being of children at risk or in need of protection. FGC is a culturally sensitive, alternative approach to child protection that empowers marginalized families; bringing together family group members to craft a plan of care for their children that addresses concerns identified by child welfare/children's mental health professionals.

"The service was amazing it met all the requirements it couldn't have been better."

FAMILY GROUP CONFERENCING MEMBER

78 children
served

46 conferences
April 1, 2021-March 31, 2022



83% had full resolution

11% had partial resolution

6% had no resolution

92% of family members and 87% of service providers agreed that the plan contained solutions that might not have been generated without the FGC.

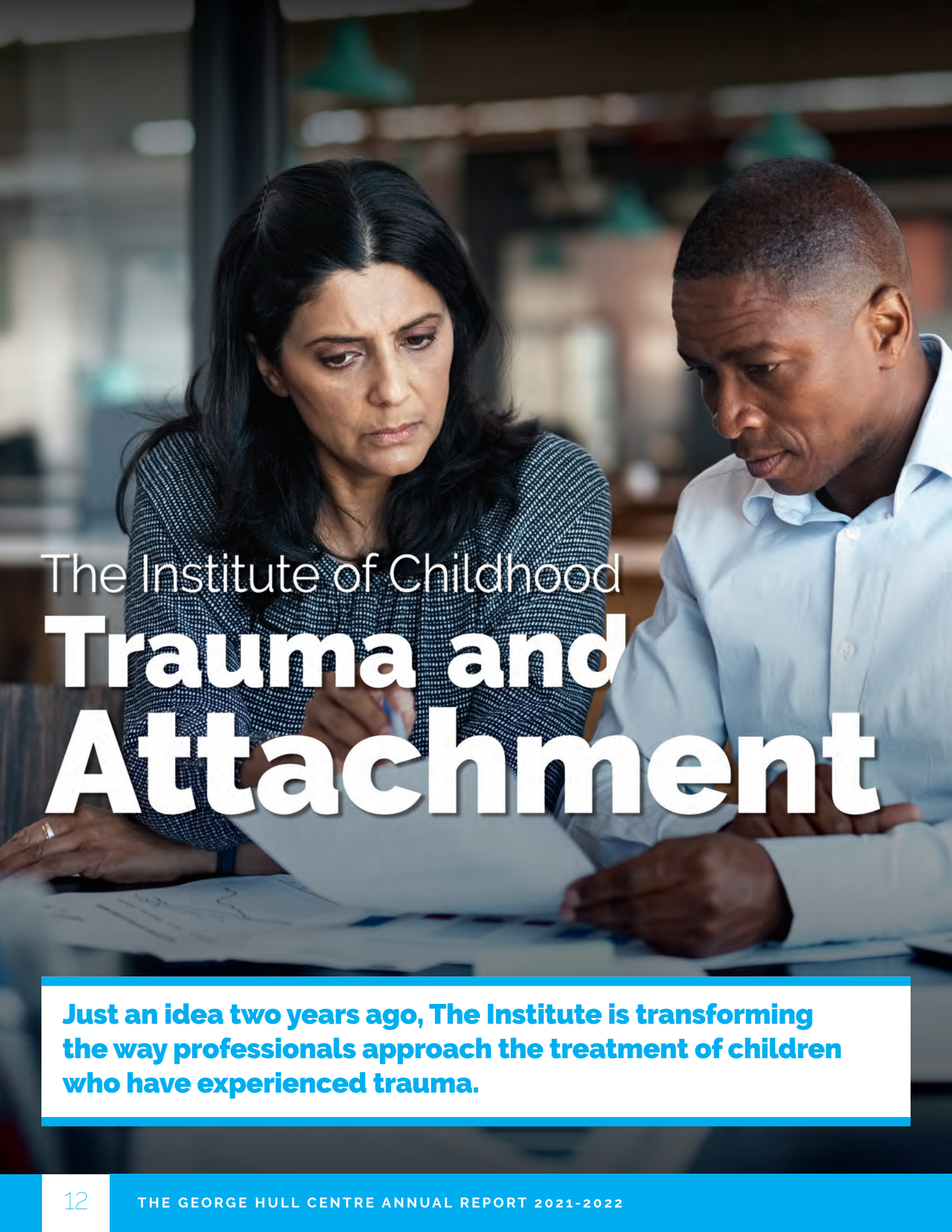
Family Group Conferencing: Provincial Resources

A quality & assurance and training body which maintains the provincial roster of qualified Family Group Conferencing Coordinators, Mentors and Trainers. It provides training, professional development and consultation to Family Group Conferencing practitioners and services across the province.

69 Rostered
FGC Coordinators

19 Mentors

9 Trainers



The Institute of Childhood
**Trauma and
Attachment**

Just an idea two years ago, The Institute is transforming the way professionals approach the treatment of children who have experienced trauma.



I'm absolutely thrilled that there has been such a wonderful reception from the community. People are not only approaching The Institute for training and knowledge, but they also want to be a part of it.

LETICIA GRACIA

Director, Institute of Childhood Trauma & Attachment

From one person with a plan - to groundbreaking research, first-of-its-kind trauma screening tools, 25 training sessions for 1,753 participants and two international conferences, not to mention countless study groups, consultations and externships - it's hard to imagine that the Institute of Childhood Trauma and Attachment was only established in 2019.

We are immensely proud of our achievements in the last year, which was a formative one for The Institute. In addition to our day-to-day work, we developed our mission, vision and strategic plan, decided on priorities, increased our staff to 10 and set up a world-class advisory board. All this despite the pandemic that made things extraordinarily difficult for both people who needed care and the professionals that were caring for them.

One of our biggest accomplishments is the number of people we trained last year: 959 in total, twice as many as the year before.

To be able to reach so many people, to have an opportunity to share knowledge and form partnerships on improving services across different sectors is very exciting for us. That is exactly why the Institute was created - to equip the practitioners who work with children affected by trauma with the necessary tools and knowledge to provide better-informed and more effective treatments.

Because despite plenty of research demonstrating the negative effect of trauma on the developing brains, there has been a real lack of capacity, funding and resources to transform these findings into practice. Yet we know that left untreated, trauma can tear through a child's life affecting their physical health, psychological and emotional well-being, cognition, and ability to socialize and learn. As many as two-thirds of children experience at least one traumatic event before they turn 16, destined for a life of suffering without relevant and timely care.

To see the growing demand for our services, especially in training, is real evidence of the urgent need for this work.

Last year, we developed a Trauma-Informed Assessment and Treatment Certificate Program: a comprehensive course on the assessment and treatment of trauma in children and youth; ran a Master Class Series: Moving from Trauma-Informed to Trauma Responsive in Complex Children's Mental Health Cases, a four-part series where a complex children's mental health case is studied from intake through treatment.

In addition to training our staff, we worked with Early Childhood Educators, The Youth and Wellness Hubs across Ontario, and all of the Special Needs Resource Consultants in the City of Toronto. We shared our knowledge with

the participants of The Family Group Conference and The Brain and Body-Based Trauma Treatment conferences.

We also had some key partnerships such as Turning Point Youth Services, Catholic Children's Aid Society, Canadian Consortium of Trauma-Informed Care, Developmental Trauma Action Alliance, Toronto Child and Family Network and Citywide to name a few.

As you are reading this, more and more children in Canada and abroad are being treated in the correct, trauma-informed context, receiving more precise and impactful care.

It's very rewarding to see the Institute becoming what we had envisioned - an organization that creates innovative practices, tests these practices in the real world and then shares the knowledge to help others treat children affected by trauma, reducing suffering in the lives of many.

Together we continue to make great leaps towards our goal - helping children and their families achieve mental wellness. ■



Trauma screening for the **very** **young**

is a triple win for children
and families, speech pathology
practitioners and mental
health clinicians

**Our dream was that every child seen by the
Preschool Speech and Language Program would
be screened for trauma.**



This is a groundbreaking, to our knowledge, never-been-done-before piece of research that we are extremely excited about and hopeful for.

ANNA RUPERT

Program Manager,
Preschool Speech & Language
Project Manager, Institute of
Childhood Trauma & Attachment



We are excited to be bringing this highly innovative trauma screening process and tool into practice to improve early access to mental healthcare and outcomes for particularly vulnerable children, who need our help the most. ■

About 28,000 children are waiting as long as 2.5 years to access mental health services, some struggling with everyday tasks. But imagine receiving life-changing care before you even realize you need it? How much needless suffering could be prevented? How many families transformed? Not to mention the time and money saved for the clients and the health care system overall.

We are proud to be edging closer to achieving this goal by launching the Preschool Speech and Language Trauma Screening & Coordinated Care Pilot Project.

Three years in the making, this ambitious project by the Institute of Childhood Trauma and Attachment was born after we learned that children who are referred to our preschool speech and language services are at an increased likelihood of having previously experienced trauma.

Research tells us that children affected by trauma often have communication impairments. This includes difficulty processing and understanding what happened to them and talking about those events. This increases the likelihood of future trauma, which can lead to lifelong mental and physical health issues.

Often speech-language pathologists are the first professionals to come in contact with these very young children, but they aren't trained to identify trauma. As a result, children, who could have been helped at a very young age, may come back to us years later with

anxiety, depression and other mental health issues that, left untreated, have escalated over the years.

Our dream was that every child seen by the Preschool Speech and Language Program would be screened for trauma, allowing us to intervene early, tailor their support and get them back on their development path without delay.

We are excited to be in a position to launch this project after working tirelessly last year to secure funding, design the project, and hire and train staff. To our knowledge, this is the first time that all children entering a preschool speech and language program will be screened for potential trauma exposure and impact. In our program, this is 700-plus children annually. Where screening raises a concern, the Community Clinic and Pre-School Speech and Language Services will work together to provide those children and their families with relevant, coordinated care.

It's a unique opportunity to collect never-before-gathered data and test a new approach that we believe will benefit everyone: the clients, the practitioners that treat them and the health care system.

There already has been a lot of interest in this work. We have developed trauma-informed speech-language pathology training and have been hired to train public providers in parts of the province and speak about trauma and speech-language pathology across Canada.

The Research and Program Evaluation Department



The Research and Program Evaluation Department supports the Centre in maintaining excellence in our services through program evaluation, quality assurance activities, training and consultation, ongoing empirical research, and collaboration with other researchers.

Training Pilot: A Trauma Informed Lens in Speech-Language Pathology (SLP) (Birth to Six), led by Anna Rupert, Manager, Pre-School Speech and Language at the George Hull Centre. The purpose of this project was to develop a comprehensive trauma-informed SLP practice training to help SLP practitioners provide trauma-informed care to young children with communication delays who have experienced trauma and/or disrupted attachment. This project evaluated the necessary components of a comprehensive training, the impact of the training, and helped establish guidelines to what constitutes trauma informed SLP practice.

The article "The Childhood Trauma and Attachment Gap in Speech-Language Pathology: Practitioner's Knowledge, Practice, and Needs," was published in the American Journal of Speech-Language Pathology, in November 2021.

Meaning-Making and Mental Health: Capturing Youth Voices led by Andrea Greeblatt, PhD Candidate at Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work, University of Toronto. The study focused on 15 youth ages 13-19 who self-identify as having mental health concerns and are currently connected with a health care professional supporting them with their mental health concerns. This study provided an opportunity for youth experiencing mental health concerns to share their own experiences and to reflect on the ways in which their relationships and interactions facilitate the dialogical meaning making of their developing sense of self.

The George Hull Centre continues to be involved in delivering two parenting programs as part of a Randomized Control Study by McMaster University called **Promoting Healthy Families: A Canadian Evaluation of Two Evidence-based Parenting Programs**.

- **The Triple P** program is derived from social learning theory and cognitive behavioural principles and aims to reduce behavioural and emotional problems in children and improve parenting practices by increasing parents' levels of knowledge, skills, and confidence.
- **The Circle of Security Parenting** program (**COS-P**) is rooted in ideas of attachment theory and aims to increase caregiver sensitivity and reduce risk of insecure and disorganized attachment. The program aims to change a child's behaviour by changing the caregiver's response to their child and helping caregivers to recognize a child's miscues and respond effectively.



2021-22 Financial Summary*

Revenue

	\$
Government funding	10,828,428
Other funding and income	973,479
Expense recoveries	3,066
Donations	263,426
Total Revenue	\$12,068,399

Expenses

	\$
Staff Compensation	9,613,785
Transportation and Communication	68,665
Occupancy Costs	825,282
Staff Development	285,981
Community Awareness	97,560
Repairs and Maintenance	300,663
Professional Services	228,063
Purchased Client Services	494,444
Insurance	72,819
Other Supplies and Equipment	177,070
Amortization	243,893
Total Expenses	\$12,408,225

2021-2022 Program Funding

- Community Clinic **41%**
- Live-In Program **8%**
- Day Treatment Program **6%**
- Intensive In-Home Services **6%**
- Institute **4%**
- Early Abilities Pre-School Speech **14%**
- EarlyON (Virtual Visitors) **10%**
- Other (ECB, EBFC, FGC-TOR., FGC-Prov.) **11%**



* 12 month period ending March 31, 2022 (post audit)



The George Hull Centre 2021-23 Strategic Plan – Year One

The Centre's Strategic Plan has seen incredible progress this past year in ensuring that we put our clients at the centre of care, by increasing the access to service, developing a collaborative care plan across the Centre, increasing knowledge within and across the sector in the area of trauma and developing programs that reach marginalized communities.

**Lower Barriers
to Care**

**One Client,
One Centre**

**Becoming a
Leading Voice**

**Diversity that
Reflects Our
Community**

Lower Barriers to Care

The George Hull Centre will measurably reduce barriers that prevent its clients from receiving care.

How do we know we are successful:

- Service delivery is not limited to in-person; clients are provided the option of a hybrid treatment model
- Access to services is increased through expansion into North Etobicoke and online offerings

One Client, One Centre

The George Hull Centre will function as one cohesive, integrated centre for the wellness of our clients.

How do we know we are successful:

- We have an integrated technology infrastructure to support service delivery
- Collaborative, shared care across programs
- Consistent training across the Centre
- Informal connections are forged across the Centre, putting clients at the centre of care

Becoming a Leading Voice

Through the Centre's Institute of Childhood Trauma & Attachment, the George Hull Centre will become known as a leading voice in trauma.

How do we know we are successful:

- Providing training and education to partners in the children's mental health sector such as dyadic development psychotherapy, trauma-informed practice
- Develop staff who are passionate advocates for our mission and work
- Partner in academic research and training

Diversity that Reflects Our Community

The staff and clients of the George Hull Centre will increasingly reflect the surrounding communities.

How do we know we are successful:

- We have cast a light on and reduced systemic bias at the George Hull Centre through continued training and education for staff
- We have developed partnerships with leaders in the Black Community to enhance access to services to marginalized youth
- We have increased afro-centric services for children and youth

"It's really hard to find such a cohesive and supportive team like the one at GH. I have never once felt like I was not welcome, like my opinions didn't matter, or like I was not apart of the teams collaboration and decision-making process. I was treated like one of the staff members which is super important as many placements will restrict certain duties from students. This can hinder their learning, and can sometimes impact a student's confidence in their abilities as they feel like they're not 'competent' enough to do the things they're restricted from. At GH, they really give you a sense of what it's like to be in the field, and do everything they can to make sure you get a meaningful experience that you can take with you moving forward wherever you end up next. I have nothing but good things to say about GH, and I really do hope to work there one day."

CYW PLACEMENT STUDENT

Community Partners

The George Hull Centre partners with a variety of community agencies to ensure children and families are receiving the best care possible. We work together to share the resourcing of services for children in the community through consultation, community development and planning initiatives with the goal of developing a comprehensive service for children and families which is community wide.

Adoption Council of Ontario	Jean Augustine Centre for Young Women's Empowerment	Stonegate Community Health Centre
Attachment Association of Canada	Jewish Family & Child Service of Toronto	STRIDES
Braeburn Neighbourhood Place	LAMP Community Health Centre	Surrey Place Centre
Capitalize4Kids	Lumenus	Terry Tan Child Centre
Catholic Children's Aid Society of Toronto	Macaulay Child Development Centre	The Loyan Foundation
Center for Addition and Mental Health	McMaster University	The Hanen Centre
Central Toronto Youth Services (CTYS)	Mothercraft	The Hospital for Sick Kids
Centralized Access to Residential Services	Native Child & Family Services of Toronto	The Humber Institute of Technology and Advanced Learning
Children's Aid Society of Toronto	North York Community House: Settlement and Education Partnership in Toronto	The Speech and Stuttering Institute
Community Living Toronto —Etobicoke/York	Ontario Association of Family Mediators	The University of Guelph-Humber
Dad Central Ontario	Parent Child Mother Goose Program Toronto	Toronto Art Therapy Institute
Davenport Perth Neighbourhood & Community Health Centre	Planned Parenthood	Toronto Catholic District School Board
Developmental Trauma Action Alliance	Queen's University	Toronto Children's Services
Dixon Grove Junior Middle School	Rathburn Area Youth Project	Toronto Community Housing Corporation
Dyadic Developmental Psychotherapy Network	Rexdale Community Health Centre	Toronto District School Board
Ernestine's Women's Shelter	Rexdale Home Child Care	Toronto Public Health
Family Association for Mental Health Everywhere (FAME)—Etobicoke	Rexdale Women's Centre	Toronto Public Library
Fellowship Christian Reformed Church and Martin Grove United Church.	Room to Grow Child Centre	University of Toronto
First Stage Child Care Centre	Royal Ontario Museum	University of Toronto, Child and Adolescent Psychiatry
Four Villages Community Health Centre	Ryerson University	University of Toronto, Faculty of Social Work
George Brown College of Applied Arts and Technology	Sashbear	Village of Humber Heights, Oakwood Retirement Communities Inc.
Highfield Junior School	Second Harvest	West End Sexual Abuse Treatment Program
Holland Bloorview Children's Rehabilitation Hospital	Seneca College of Applied Arts and Technology	Western Technical-Commercial School
Humber River Hospital	Sheridan College Institute of Technology and Advanced Learning	YMCA Toronto
Islington United Church	Silver Creek Centre for Early Learning and Development	York University
	St. Joseph's Health Centre, Collaborative Care Clinic and Emergency Department	Yorktown Child & Family Centre

"I would have to say that this was the best FGC that I have attended. The coordinator was amazing and organizing. I look forward to working with her in the future"

SERVICE PROVIDER



The George Hull Centre Foundation

The George Hull Centre Foundation was established in 1995 to raise and maintain funds which support children's mental health activities at the George Hull Centre for Children and Families. **We believe that supporting children's mental health is an investment in our children and families, in our communities, our society and our future.**

Thousands of children come through the George Hull Centre doors each year. Many of these children are impacted by mental health issues, some in very complex ways. Our work is vital to ensuring infants, children and youth suffering from mental health issues have the chance for hopeful and healthy futures.

Laura Syron and Keith McLaughlin's

\$100,000

PLEDGE gives trauma-affected children hope for a new future.



“...we are especially excited about the training component of our gift and how it will build capacity in the system so that more children and youth will get the help they need.”



When we learned about the Institute of Childhood Trauma and Attachment, and how the Centre is taking the lead on addressing the critical need for better understanding, assessment and treatment of traumatized children, we knew that's where we wanted to direct our support!

We would not be a leading children's mental health centre without the ongoing support of our wonderful donors. Every year their donations allow our staff to continue to provide first-class care to over 5,000 children, free of charge, changing many lives in the process.

Some of the donors have been with us for many years. Often, they first come to us as clients and having experienced the George Hull Centre's excellent care, stay on as donors.

One such story is Laura Syron and her husband Keith McLaughlin's who have recently pledged an incredible \$100,000 to the Centre's Institute of Childhood Trauma and Attachment.



LAURA SYRON AND KEITH McLAUGHLIN

Laura has always had a connection with the George Hull Centre. Her father, Michael Syron, was our founding Board Chair and is remembered for his dedication and commitment to the Centre's success. After his passing, Laura and her siblings continued his legacy by establishing a bursary in his name. Later Laura's own family returned to the George Hull Centre as clients when they were in need of care. "The George Hull Centre was a lifeline for our son, in fact for our whole family, during his mental health struggles."

The impact of this extraordinary pledge cannot be overstated. It will help clinicians from the George Hull Centre and partner agencies receive much-needed training for their speech and language pathologists working with children and youth who have or are currently experiencing trauma.

This includes CASTER® (the Child and Adolescent Screener for Traumatic Exposure and Response): a first-ever screening tool developed by the Institute in consultation with trauma experts around the world as well as George Hull Centre clinicians, youth, and parents. It's published on our website and available to be used free of charge for any practitioner that requires trauma assessment guidance.

By building this capacity in the Centre and across the system, clinicians will be able to identify and effectively treat children affected by trauma, reducing suffering in the lives of many.

We are forever grateful to Laura and Keith for their ongoing support and commitment to the George Hull Centre over the years. Together we continue to bring hope, solutions and positive outcomes to many children, changing the trajectory of their mental health. ■

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We Are George (WAG) is the George Hull Centre's young leaders group, comprised of a group of passionate young professionals in Toronto committed to raising awareness, breaking the stigma, and increasing funding to the under resourced sector of children's mental health. Their goal is to also cultivate the next generation of mental health advocates and philanthropists

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