



The Jean Tweed Centre

Integrated Care Initiative

Broadview Avenue Project Site

The Integrated Care Initiative offers **trauma-informed and gender-specific** withdrawal management support, intensive, residential substance use treatment, and transitional housing for women with substance use concerns. **All services are offered in one-location for easy and supportive transitions along the recovery journey.**

WHY THIS INITIATIVE IS NEEDED



Although women initiate drug and alcohol use at an older age, compared to men, they tend to develop substance use disorders faster. They also experience significantly greater physical, psychological, and social harms from substance use, and are more likely to have histories of trauma.¹



Women also face significant gendered barriers to accessing treatment and supports for substance use concerns, including income inequality, childcare responsibilities, fear of involvement of child protective services, and stigma.²



Women need comprehensive, gender-specific, integrated, and often long-term treatment and services to overcome these gendered impacts of substance use and barriers to support.

1. McCrady et al. (2020). Treatment interventions for women with alcohol use disorder. *Alcohol Research: Current Reviews*, 40(2), 1–18.
2. Harris et al. (2022). Gender dynamics in substance use and treatment: a women's focused approach. *Medical Clinics*, 106(1), 219–234.

CONTINUUM OF CARE

WITHDRAWAL MANAGEMENT

- Designed for women with mild to moderate substance use withdrawal symptoms that can be safely managed in a community-based environment
- Flexible length of stay to respond to women's needs
- Seamless transition to the Intensive Substance Use Program

Step 1

INTENSIVE SUBSTANCE USE PROGRAM

- 10 beds available to women in need
- 4-weeks of intensive counselling, group, education, and 24/7 support designed specifically for women
- Services integrate evidence based treatment interventions (e.g., Cognitive and Dialectical Behavioural Therapy) with skill building and psychoeducation

Step 2

TRANSITIONAL SUPPORT

- Beds for women who have completed the intensive program to support their transition into the community
- Familiar and safe accommodations, including counselling and nutritious meals.
- Access to wrap-around services including trauma programming, 2 years of continuing care, the child development centre, transitional and permanent housing.

Step 3

OUR IMPACT



In 1 year

(April 1, 2023 - March 31, 2024)

179

Women served
across all program
components

39

Average age of
women served

Withdrawal Management

- 35 clients served
- 100% of clients have immediate access to intensive treatment

Intensive Substance Use Program

- 132 clients served

Transitional Support

- 11 clients served

86% of clients
transition to
treatment

36% of clients
transition to
transitional support

Benefits



No more missed opportunities to engage and support women to transition to intensive substance use treatment following withdrawal management



Women have access to **comprehensive, gender-specific, wrap-around supports**, including trauma-specific services, primary health care, child development, and long-term substance use supports.



New initiative has **cut the wait for existing residential treatment beds by over half**.

Client Perceptions

90%

Agree that the program helped them work toward their recovery goal

90%

Appreciated the community and home-like setting and access to counsellors

80%

Valued the women-only and trauma-informed aspects of program

80%

Agreed that staff believed in their ability to change and grow

80%

Would recommend the program to a friend in need of similar help

“The staff here work hard, care, listen, never did I ever feel judged. (this was very important to me). I wish I could duplicate this in my community.” - Client
-Client

“The groups were helpful. Residential/staff were wonderful. I was given my space when I needed my space. Having access to nurse/nurse practitioner on site was helpful to understand how my substance use affected me.”
-Client