

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SHARED CARE MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES CELEBRATES ANNIVERSARY

(Thunder Bay, ON December 20, 2005) Community Mental Health Services (CMHS) at St. Joseph's Care Group (SJCG) – Lakehead Psychiatric Hospital site, celebrated the 1st Anniversary of providing shared care mental health services by holding an open house at the Port Arthur Health Centre (PAHC) on December 20, 2005.

For the past year, psychiatrists and psychiatric nurses of CMHS have been available on site at the PAHC to offer advice and consultation to the physicians there in the treatment of their clients with a mental illness. Direct psychiatric service to clients at PAHC has also been available. Since December 2004, over 130 clients have been seen and over 150 indirect consultations with family physicians have been completed by the CMHS shared care staff at PAHC.

In November 2005, consultation and brief therapy services from psychology and social work staff were also made available to physicians and their clients at PAHC.

Dr. Jack Haggarty, Medical Director, CMHS for St. Joseph's Care Group and a nationally recognized leader in shared care, said "The partnership between St. Joseph's Care Group and Port Arthur Health Centre is an innovative approach to the provision of shared care services and will establish Thunder Bay as a centre of excellence in the treatment of mental health using the shared care model".

Shared mental health care staff provide services to clients in the setting in which they receive other health care from their family doctor. Quality mental health services are provided to clients in a familiar setting. Family doctors remain at the centre of health care, including mental health care.

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