



March 30, 2017

The Hon. Minister Dr. Eric Hoskins
Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care
10th Floor, Hepburn Block
80 Grosvenor Street
Toronto, Ontario M7A 2C4

Ian Chesney
Policy Advisor
Office of the Hon. Dr. Eric Hoskins
Minister of Health and Long-Term Care

Jennifer Shiller
Senior Policy Advisor
Office of the Hon. Dr. Eric Hoskins
Minister of Health and Long-Term Care

Dear Minister Hoskins, Mr. Chesney and Ms. Shiller,

With reference to our letter dated March 2, 2017 and our meeting on February 24, 2017, we are writing to inquire on the progress by your Ministry with regards to; the concerns we have brought forward about the Psychotherapy Act and the impact on services to young people in need of mental health supports, and on the Child and Youth Care Practitioner community in Ontario.

Time is of the essence as the grand-parenting deadline of March 31st is tomorrow. To date, there has been no communication from your Ministry to our community, or the sectors currently employing Child and Youth Care Practitioners (CYCPs) about this concern. We believe that psychotherapy technique is a part of our scope of practice, as we support young people and their families in the places where they live their lives. As such, we have made the following requests of your office to ensure our scope of practice is not altered inadvertently by way of this Act, limiting our abilities to do our jobs as we have been educated and hired to do them. We are concerned that; waitlists will grow for services, potential vulnerable and high risk children and youth will face increased wait times for urgent care, and that the employment of over 10,000 CYCPs currently employed in Ontario (and the up and coming 1,000 annual graduates from the 24 CYC College/University programs in Ontario), will also be at risk.

We have made three specific requests of the Minister's Office.

1. To provide us with a description, including definitions of "Psychotherapy Technique".
2. **To provide an exemption for all CYCPs from the Psychotherapy Act provided they have completed a degree or diploma in Child and Youth Care, are members of the provincial association (OACYC) which includes; a commitment to the code of ethics, completion of yearly professional development activities, and employment within the scope of practice of Child and Youth Care.**
3. To regulate the field of Child and Youth Care in the interests of public safety.



As previously indicated, we were informed that Minister Hoskins was aware of our concerns and that he has no intention of proclaiming the Psychotherapy Act until a positive resolution is found to ensure that CYCPs continue to work; meet their scope of practice; and provide ongoing services to children and youth across Ontario. In order to ensure services continue without disruption to both children and youth in Ontario and employment of CYCPs, we ask once again for MHLTC to make a public statement about the value of our work and your plan to ensure we are able to continue it without significant change.

Since our last communication, we have delivered a formal request for a regulatory college to MCYS. We believe our important work, as members of the mental health care team across sectors, would continue as regulated professionals through MCYS. Child and Youth Care Practice is complicated work that requires specialized education. It also is an effective method of providing for the needs of many of our young people while being cost effective.

We await a response from MHLTC to our requests, to share with all concerned parties, including our members and the mental health community, stating current intentions.

Sincerely,

Christine Gaitens, BA CYC (Cert) CYC-P
President of the Board
Ontario Association of Child & Youth Care

Cc Hon. Minister Coteau
Cc Jagmeet Singh
Cc Monique Taylor
Cc France Gelinias