



uOttawa

17 April, 2015

To Whom It May Concern,

Re: Child and Youth Counselors (CYC's) becoming a Regulated Profession

As a Psychiatrist who has practiced clinically with a focus on child and youth mental health for the past almost 34 years, and as someone who espouses the value of authentic multidisciplinary team functioning, I have always been impressed and very appreciative of the expertise CYC's provide in the clinical setting. From the leadership perspective, I was very involved in actively promoting their clinical role within our tertiary University Hospital setting. This role spans considerable frontline engagement with clients, patients and their families that include significant involvement in our centralized Intake procedure; our Eating Disorder Program; our Day Treatment School-based Programs; our Transitional Mental Health Services for Youth and Emerging Adults; our Autism Program; the Centre for Healthy and Active Living; our inpatient psychiatry program. In all of these settings, the CYC's take on critical and valued clinical roles as integral team members of our multidisciplinary teams.

In order to accomplish these fundamental professional responsibilities, the educational grounding that students must actively engage in is very important. It is really surprising that in 2015, one essential component in the chain of the educational and clinical enterprise is missing. Namely, the importance of Child and Youth Counselors becoming members of a regulated profession is in my opinion vital. Having such regulation protects the client, patient and family, the CYC and also the institution in which they work. I am therefore providing this letter in very strong support of the regulation of this valuable and important profession.

I would be pleased to answer any questions.

Sincerely,

Dr. Simon Davidson
Professor of Psychiatry and Paediatrics,
Clinical Professor, School of Psychology,
University of Ottawa
Senior Advisor on Mental Health Policy and System Improvement,
Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario and Partners for Mental Health