
Press Release

For immediate release

New mechanism to facilitate access to rehabilitation services for youth with drug or alcohol addiction

Montreal, November 23 – Use of alcohol and drugs among youth under the age of 18 years has increased dramatically over the past few years. Today, the *Centre Dollard-Cormier* and *Pavillon Foster* – two substance abuse rehabilitation centres serving the population of Montreal – are officially inaugurating a mechanism to facilitate access to rehabilitation services (detoxification, inpatient services, etc.) and reduce waiting periods.

Developed with the participation of all partners on the Island, the approach will allow youth to receive a rapid and standardized assessment of their difficulties related to the use of alcohol or drugs, no matter which resource they consult (health and social service centres, centres jeunesse, hospitals, etc.). This assessment will then be used to direct them to the most appropriate resource for their needs.

Since its implementation in October, the mechanism has facilitated the assessment and orientation of 47 youth to the right service. They have all been assessed and have received or are about to receive treatment to address their problems. For David Levine, President-Executive Director of the Agence de la santé et des services sociaux de Montréal, “this mechanism is proof that the network approach can make an immense difference in the quality of services provided to the population.”

Optimistic about the scope of this new procedure, Madeleine Roy, Executive Director of the *Centre Dollard-Cormier*, considers that the new approach will ultimately mean that “no youth on the Island of Montreal under the age of 18 years who has a substance abuse problem will be left to his own resources.” It is estimated that some 550 requests for services were made to the partner institutions by youth under the age of 18 or their parents during 2004-2005. A non-recurring budget of approximately \$380,000 has been allocated to this mechanism.

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