



What is Collaborative Mental Health Care? An Introduction to the Collaborative Mental Health Care Framework

The goal of the Canadian Collaborative Mental Health Initiative (CCMHI) is to enhance the capacity of primary health care providers to meet the mental health needs of consumers through interdisciplinary collaboration.

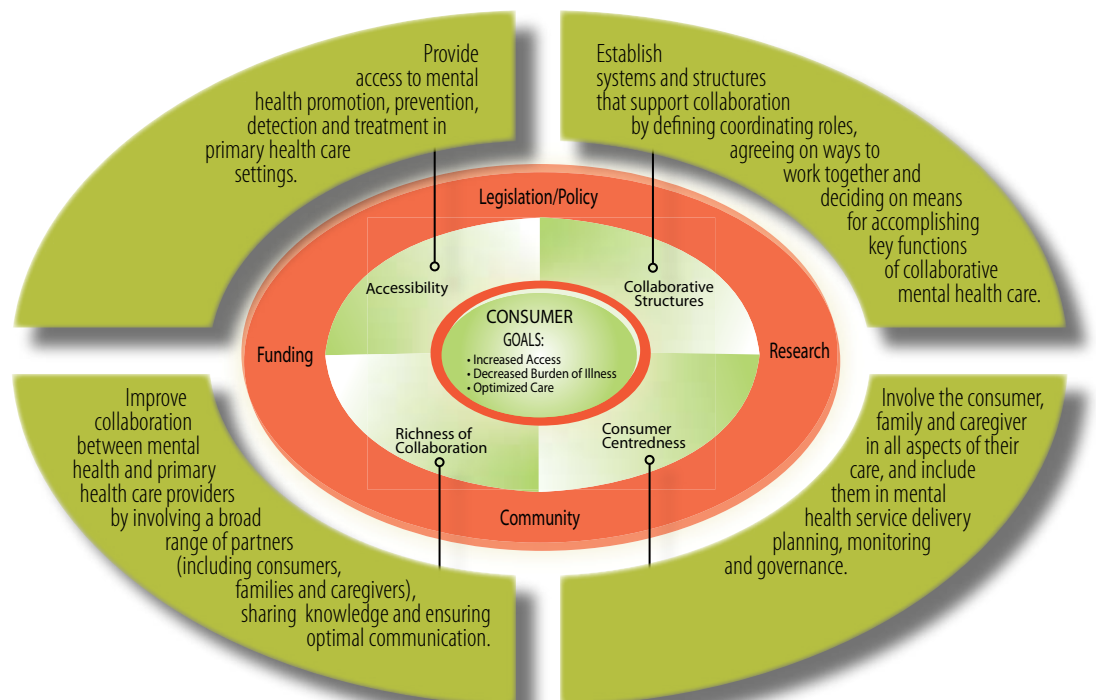
This paper describes the conceptual **Framework** created by CCMHI to reach a common understanding of collaborative mental health care, defined as **fundamentals** and **key elements**.

The **fundamentals** that influence the success of collaborative mental health care include:

- the degree of consistency of legislation, policies and funding structures with the principles of collaborative mental health care
- funds and research findings that support it
- community strengths and needs, resources and readiness to implement it

The four **key elements** that are essential to collaborative mental health care are: accessibility, collaborative structures, richness of collaboration and consumer centredness.

The Framework puts the **consumer** at the centre. This is based on the premise that collaborative mental health care will increase access to mental health services, decrease the burden of illness and optimize care.



This document provides an overview of the paper: *What is Collaborative Mental Health Care? An Introduction to the Collaborative Mental Health Care Framework*.

The paper is available in English and French. Visit our Web site: www.ccmhi.ca, or contact:

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The opinions expressed in this publication are those of the CCMHI secretariat and do not necessarily reflect the official views of the CCMHI's member organizations or Health Canada.

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