

# BBOHT BUZZ

THE OFFICIAL BRANTFORD BRANT OHT NEWSLETTER



## ***STRONGER TOGETHER: PARTNERSHIP WITH NORFOLK***

A MESSAGE FROM BEN DEIGNAN,  
OHT DIRECTOR/EXECUTIVE LEAD

The Brantford Brant OHT is working closely with several health service organizations in Norfolk to become a larger OHT. This will strengthen multiple existing partnerships across the region. Practically, what this means is that people who access care in Brantford Brant and Norfolk will have a more consistent and connected experience, whether they need primary care, acute care, community care, or mental health care. It also means that we will be spending more time in the Norfolk

region to understand what is working well and what can be improved as it relates to healthcare services. We will also be seeking advice on how to grow our brand to be inclusive of our Norfolk stakeholders. The BBOHT Buzz, logo and website may look different in the future!

We are very excited about strengthening our relationships to improve the delivery of care for the people of Brantford Brant and Norfolk. We will continue to provide updates as this work progresses. See page 2 for upcoming events hosted by our Persons With Lived Experience Committee that will be the first step in connecting with the Norfolk community.

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BRANTFORD BRANT  
ONTARIO HEALTH TEAM

# A CONVERSATION WITH YOUR LOCAL ONTARIO HEALTH TEAM

## LET'S TALK ABOUT HEALTH CARE IN BRANTFORD BRANT & NORFOLK

HOSTED BY THE PERSONS WITH  
LIVED EXPERIENCE COMMITTEE

An opportunity  
to be a real  
change-  
maker in your  
community

Share your  
experiences –  
good or bad!

**Thursday  
June 16**

**Brantford Civic Centre  
10-12  
Brant Sports Complex  
530-730**

**Thursday  
June 23**

**Norfolk Fairgrounds  
Junior Farmers Bldg  
10-12  
Virtual Event  
630-8**

**WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO RSVP FOR THIS EVENT  
BUT DROP-INS ARE WELCOME. FOR MORE INFORMATION  
OR TO RSVP EMAIL [CONTACT@BRANTOHT.CA](mailto:CONTACT@BRANTOHT.CA)  
OR CALL 519-752-5308 X119**



BRANTFORD BRANT NORFOLK  
ONTARIO HEALTH TEAM





## COMMUNITY PARTNER LUNCHEON:

On April 5th the Brantford Brant Ontario Health Team (BBOHT) Homelessness group hosted an outreach meeting to provide an in-person opportunity to meet with other community partners who support persons experiencing homelessness and those who are precariously housed in Brantford Brant. In attendance was the Brantford Downtown Outreach Team (BDOT), The Brantford Native Housing Outreach team, Housing Resource Centre (HRC) Outreach team, the City of Brantford, Community Services & Social Development and Laurier Special Constable Service, Brantford Campus. These partners were invited to expand on our collaborative relationships and to build awareness of the work that the BBOHT Homelessness team is supporting in the Brantford community. Thank you to Lynda Kohler and Maritza Yawching-Robertson for hosting and to our community partners for joining us!

*Shown in the above photo (left to right):*

**Maritza Robertson**, Project Coordinator, Homelessness, Brantford Brant Ontario Health Team

**Nicole Savini**, Intensive Case Manager Housing Resource Centre, The Salvation Army

**Julia Iannino**, Program Manager- Housing Resource Centre, The Salvation Army

**Victoria Boyle**, Community Development Coordinator, City of Brantford |

**Corey Ross**, Constable, Laurier Special Constable Service, Brantford Campus

**Jessica Drost**, Constable, Laurier Special Constable Service, Brantford Campus

**Lynn Sault**, Housing Outreach Worker, Brantford Native Housing

**Shelina Doolittle**, Homelessness and Street Outreach Worker, Brantford Native Housing



**Lynda Kohler**, Project Lead, Homelessness, Brantford Brant Ontario Health Team

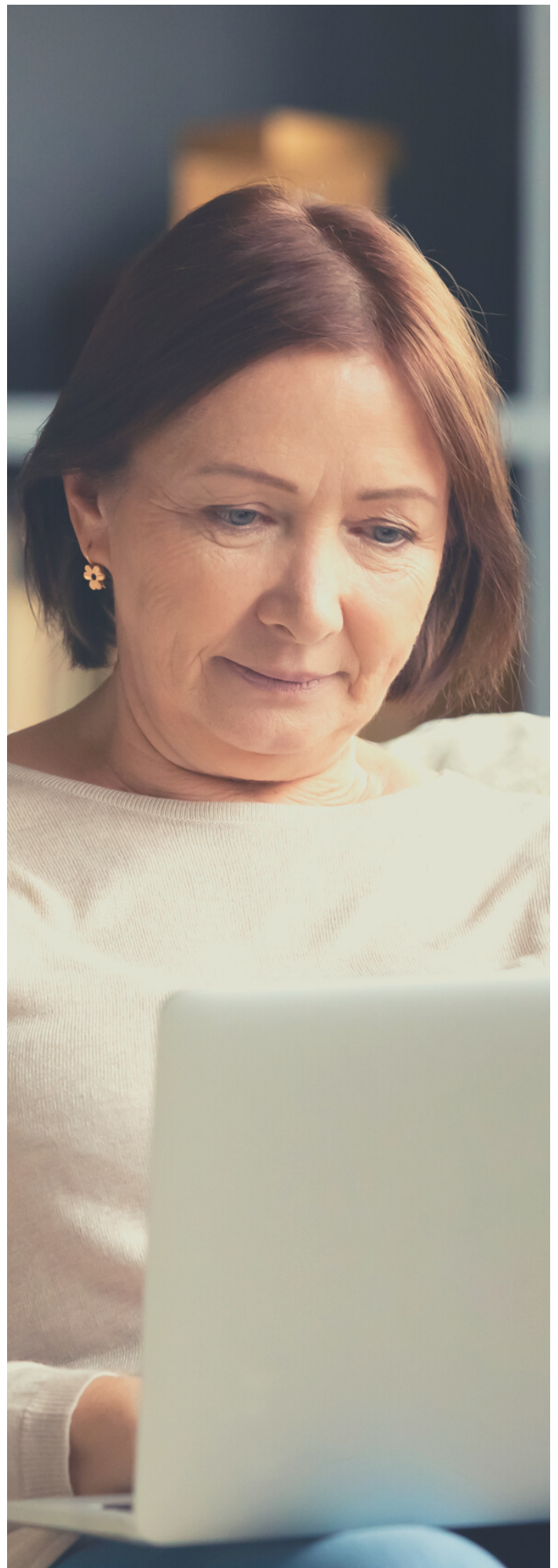
# *ConnectMyHealth* *PATIENT PORTAL* *PROJECT UPDATE*

This month the Brantford Brant OHT Digital Health Working Group continued their support of the ConnectMyHealth (CMH) Patient Portal Implementation Project, led by Health Information Technology Services (HITS), a division of Hamilton Health Sciences.

In early April, the project team at HITS provided an update on the "soft launch" of CMH in their [Connections Newsletter](#), which included data from our local Brant Community Health System. As the project moves forward, the BBOHT will update our community partners in order to prepare for the launch of the program. Updates will include launch dates and patient registration information, as well as advertising and promotional ConnectMyHealth branded collateral to distribute in offices and other patient-facing environments.

ConnectMyHealth will be different than other patient portals because it combines various types of health records created at OH West hospitals into one, consolidated view. Key functionality of ConnectMyHealth includes record sharing, new information alerts, customizable patient dashboards and appointment timelines to easily display all upcoming appointments in one place. For a complete summary of the types of data that will be available in ConnectMyHealth you can [visit the website here](#).

For any questions related to ConnectMyHealth you can email [contact@brantoht.ca](mailto:contact@brantoht.ca) and we will be happy to communicate with the HITS team.







## *ALYSSA STRYKER NAMED DRUGS STRATEGY COORDINATOR*

The City of Brantford is excited to announce the appointment of a new Drugs Strategy Coordinator. The Drugs Strategy Coordinator will work closely with the BBOHT and other community partners in order to lead the charge on drug strategy reform within the city.

Alyssa Stryker has over ten years of experience in drug policy, including direct service, research, knowledge translation and technical assistance. Alyssa began her career coordinating the casework portfolio at the British Columbia Civil Liberties Association in Vancouver, B.C. In her most recent role as a Senior Associate with the Substance Use Prevention and Treatment Initiative, Pew Charitable Trusts, she advised state and county governments on expanding access to opioid agonist therapy.

She also volunteered as an outreach worker with Honouring Individual Power and Strength, Washington, DC's main harm reduction provider.

Prior to Pew, Alyssa worked at the Drug Policy Alliance, where her work focused on reducing the criminalization of people who use drugs and issues related to low-level drug markets. Alyssa earned her Master of Arts in Human Geography from the University of British Columbia and also holds a Bachelor of Arts with Honours in Development Studies from Queen's University. Alyssa can be reached at [alyssa.stryker@bchu.org](mailto:alyssa.stryker@bchu.org).

## *GRCHC OUTREACH STATION*

The Grand River Community Health Centre (GRCHC) is now able to provide a shower station and refreshment cart to those in the community who are experiencing homelessness or precariously housed. This program is funded by the Reaching Home Grant which was reviewed and supported by The City of Brantford's Community Advisory Board.

Shower access is by appointment only Monday-Friday, 9AM-4PM and can be booked in person at the GRCHC or by calling/texting 519-750-4932. Clients who have booked the shower station are also able to do their laundry or access "practical support" while they wait. This can include help with tasks such as completing forms or making appointments. This long-anticipated program is a huge step in the right direction for Brantford in providing meaningful support to those in need.



# WELCOME OHT IMPACT FELLOW!

The BBOHT is pleased to announce that Jennifer Miller has successfully been matched to the Brantford Brant OHT as part of the OHT Impact Fellow program through The University of Toronto. This program places skilled evaluators and researchers directly within OHTs for a year-long fellowship.

Jennifer will be in this role on a full-time basis from April 2022 to March 2023. Until recently, Jennifer was the Administrator of the John Noble Home where she was a foundational member of the Brantford Brant OHT Executive Leadership Group and previously served as a “Co-Executive Sponsor” of the Dementia Work Group.

Jennifer has an extensive background in healthcare administration, clinical services, and in this new role will further enhance her academic and research skills. She will support the implementation and evaluation of projects related to the dementia priority population. Jennifer will also be welcomed into the OHT Secretariat Team and contribute to our culture of rapid learning and improvement. Welcome to the team Jennifer!



Grand River Community Health Centre



## TO OUR OHT PARTNERS

Do you have an event or announcement that you would like to be featured in the next OHT newsletter or social media?

**Email [jessica.ackland@bchsys.org](mailto:jessica.ackland@bchsys.org)**

We would love to hear from you!