



ATTENTION: News / Assignment Editors

June 7, 2004

**Saint Elizabeth Health Care & William Osler Health Centre
Host 20th Anniversary Crisis Workers Society Conference**

Mississauga, ON – Saint Elizabeth Health Care and William Osler Health Centre are co-hosting the 20th Anniversary Crisis Workers Society 2004 Conference. *Cultural Diversity in Crisis Work: Opportunities and Challenges* is being held at the Delta Meadowvale Resort & Conference Centre in Mississauga, Ontario on June 9, 10 and 11.

The conference will cover interesting and timely topics such as Youth and Violence: Supports and Interventions That Work, Culturally Appropriate Approaches to Suicide Prevention and Cultural Differences in Diagnosis, Treatment of Chronic Mental Illness, and Communication Skills in Cross Cultural Crisis Work.

Key presenters are: **Paul Kwasi Kafele**, Director for Corporate Diversity at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health in Toronto; **Dr. Gilles Pinette**, family physician in Winnipeg, Manitoba; **Dr. Neil Oliver**, Clinical Director for Correctional Services of Canada; **Dr. Lee Ann Hoff**, author of *People in Crisis: Clinical and Public Health Perspectives*; and **Dr. Umesh Jain**, a child and adolescent psychologist and recognized expert in Attention-Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder.

The Crisis Workers Society is devoted to the enhancement, education, and support of crisis workers throughout the province. Full members are professional, multi-disciplinary, front line and supervisory personnel of Crisis Mental Health Programs funded by a Ministry or other sources.

The host organizations are leaders in crisis work. Through a unique partnership built on networks of community linkages, Saint Elizabeth Health Care and William Osler Health Centre offer integrated and timely mobile crisis response to adults with serious mental illness who are experiencing an acute psychiatric crisis.

William Osler Health Centre is Ontario's 6th largest hospital corporation. As a regional referral centre, it provides programs and services to nearly 1 million area residents. Facilities include acute care and ancillary health care facilities in the growing and diverse communities of Etobicoke, Brampton and Georgetown, Ontario.

Saint Elizabeth Health Care is a Canadian not-for-profit charitable organization known for over 95 years of innovation, creativity and responsiveness in community healthcare. With well-established programs in the areas of nursing, personal support/homemaking and rehabilitation, a broad range of mental health services and supports are available.

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Interview opportunity available.

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Backgrounder: Crisis Services Provided by Host Organizations



Through a network of partnerships and community linkages, Saint Elizabeth Health Care provides Integrated Mobile Crisis Services in Peel Region and the City of Toronto, offering timely crisis response to adults with serious mental illness who are experiencing an acute psychiatric crisis.

Services are multidisciplinary and include:

- 24-hour telephone access
- Timely mobile crisis response and on-site support
- Psychiatric backup
- Linkages to mental health and community services
- Intensive follow-up home treatment and support

Services are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and are provided in a broad range of community settings, including youth and homeless shelters, ethno-cultural centres, health clinics, libraries, housing complexes, coffee shops, street corners, parks and airports. The program is funded by the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care.

For more information, visit www.saintelizabeth.com.



**WILLIAM
OSLER
HEALTH
CENTRE**

William Osler Health Centre offers Crisis Intervention through its Emergency Departments at Etobicoke and Brampton campuses.

The Crisis Intervention Team provides assessment and intervention to those who have severe and persistent mental illness, mental health problems, and/or who are in distress because of psychosocial stresses.

Family and/or significant others are included in the intervention.

The Team collaborates with the Emergency Team, staff from other hospital services, as well as with its community partners to develop and implement appropriate treatment strategies. Consultation to the community is provided on mental health and psychosocial issues.

On any given day, the staff deals with a wide range of people who have mental illnesses as well as victims of abuse or assault.

The service is available 24-hours-a-day, seven days a week through the Etobicoke Hospital Campus ER.

William Osler Health Centre's 24-hour Crisis Response Program is one of only six regional programs in the GTA made possible through funding from the Ministry Of Health and Long-Term Care to enhance staffing so that there would be someone available 24-hours. At William Osler Health Centre, the program means faster and better mental health services for the community.