

ACCESS-MH

Atlantic Canada Children's Effective Service Strategies in Mental Health

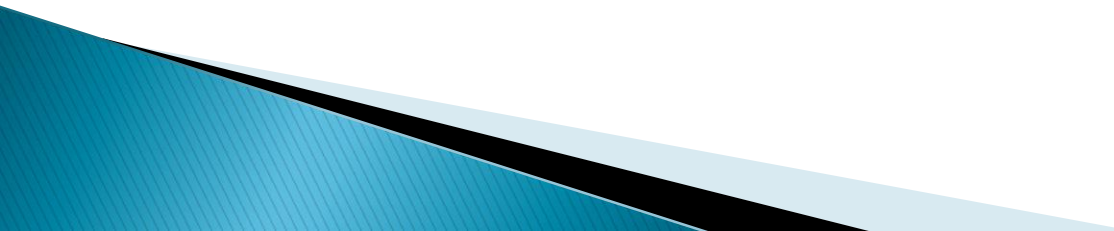
Barriers and Facilitators in Access to Child/Youth Mental Health Services

[Rick Audas](#)
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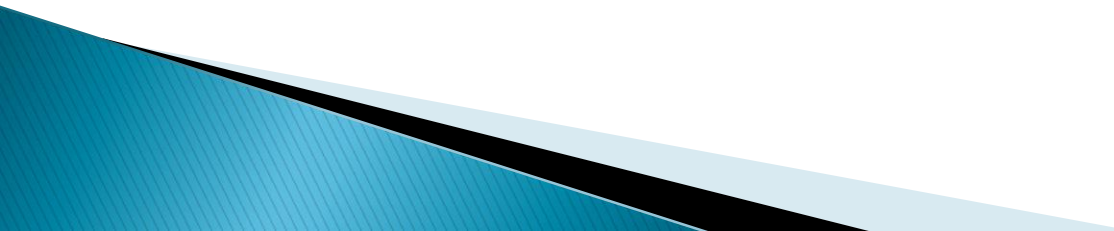
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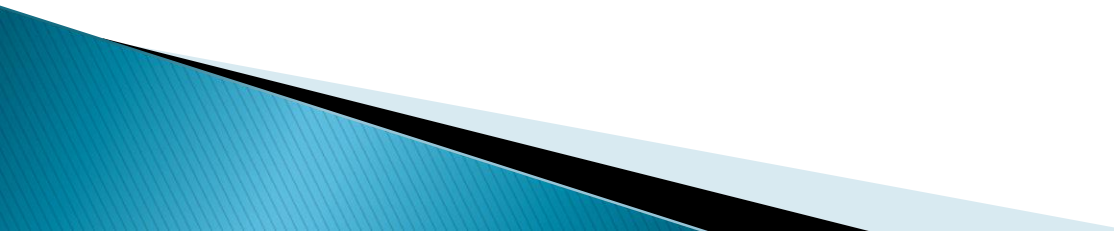
Funder

- ▶ A research program funded by Canadian Institute for Health Research – Team Grant–Community–Based Primary Healthcare theme
 - ▶ Theme of the funded projects (we are one of twelve nation–wide) is to re–examine the role of primary care providers.
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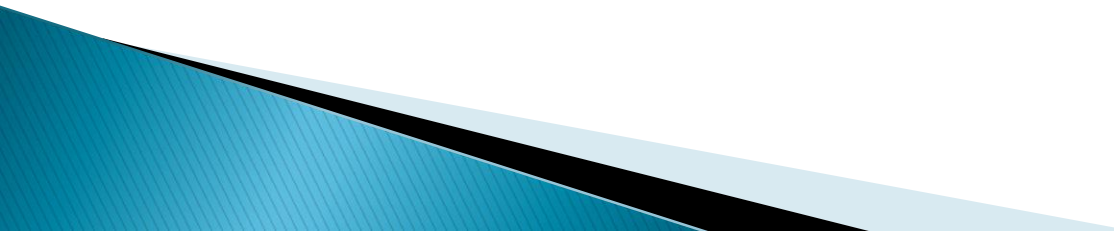
Principal Investigators

- ▶ Dr. Rick Audas (Nominated PI)– Health Economist– MUN
 - ▶ Dr. Scott Ronis (PI)– Psychologist– UNB
 - ▶ Dr. Kate Tilleczek(PI)– Canada Research Chair and Sociologist– UPEI
 - ▶ Dr Michael Zhang (PI)– Operations Research Expert– SMU
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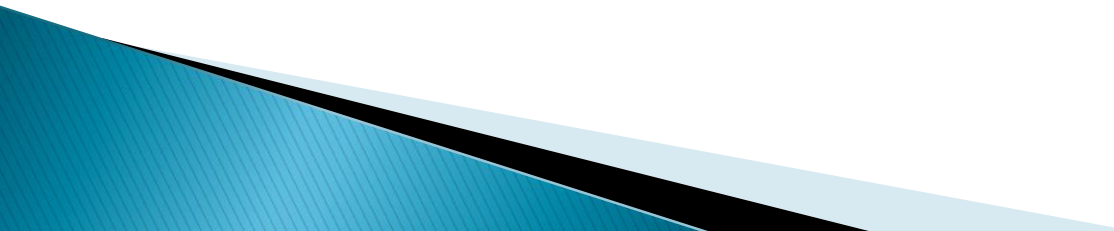
Collabrators

- ▶ Marshall Godwin– Director of Primary Healthcare Research Unit–MUN
 - ▶ Roger Chafe–Director of Pediatric Health Research Unit–MUN
 - ▶ William Montelpare– Chair of Margaret and Wallace McCain Chair in Human Development and Health–UPEI
 - ▶ Weiqiu Yu– Health Economist– UNB
 - ▶ Bronwyn Davies–VP Population Health and Continuing Care– Gov NB
 - ▶ Colleen Simms– Dept of Health and Community Services– Gov NL
 - ▶ Reid Burke –ED of Canadian Mental Health Association–PEI Chapter
 - ▶ Donald MacDonald–VP Research and Development– NL Centre for Health Information
 - ▶ Julie MacDonald –Manager Child and Adolescent Mental Health –NS
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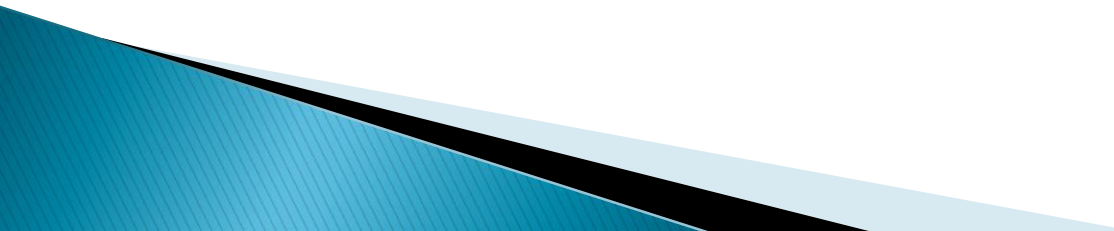
The Problem...

- ▶ Treatment for children with mental health conditions can be provided by many different types of professionals spanning health, education and others.
 - ▶ Care is typically not well coordinated.
 - ▶ Families get frustrated with this and many seek private care.
 - ▶ But access to private treatment is costly and not within the means of all who would benefit.
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Aim of Research Program

- ▶ To bring together an inter–sectorial and inter–disciplinary team of decision makers, clinicians, and academic researchers from across Atlantic Canada to take a diverse approach to studying several mental health and behavioural conditions.
 - ▶ To develop evidence supported resource maps to indicate to a wide range of stakeholders what services are available, how treatments can be accessed and their comparative effectiveness.
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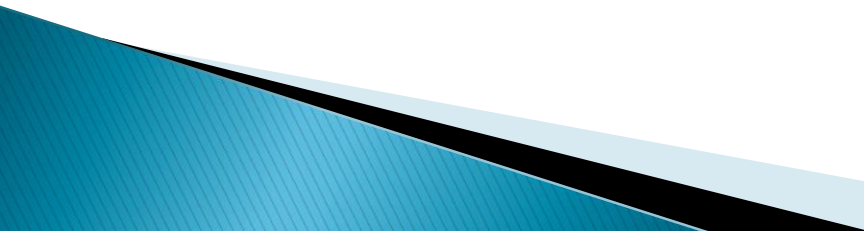
Conditions

- ▶ Autism Spectrum Disorder
 - ▶ Conduct Disorder
 - ▶ Eating Disorders
 - ▶ Depression
 - ▶ Anxiety
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Approaches to study Conditions

- ▶ Patient Journeys
 - ▶ Analysis of Large and Complex Data Sets
 - ▶ Operations Research
 - ▶ Comparative Policy Analysis
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Cross-cutting Themes

- ▶ Children with complex mental health conditions are poorly managed and coordinated by providers.
 - ▶ That socio-economic status matters. Mental health conditions are more common among those with the fewest means and SES is adversely impacted by mental health conditions.
 - ▶ There are significant differences across jurisdictions. Need to find out what works.
 - ▶ Aim to develop resource maps for families, providers (in both health and education) and policy makers.
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Patient Journeys

- ▶ Used to describe the clinical pathways through which treatment has been received
- ▶ Approach is qualitative, relying on families telling their (horror?) stories about seeking and receiving treatment.
- ▶ Intend to conduct approximately 250 interviews across the regions.
- ▶ PJ Bootcamp for students



Analysis of Data Sets

- ▶ Each condition will be explored using available and administrative and survey databases.
- ▶ Such as:
 - National Longitudinal Study of Children and Youth
 - National Health Survey
 - Canadian Community Health Survey
 - Data maintained by the Health and Education systems in each province.
 - Other data sources



Analysis of Data Sets (cont.)

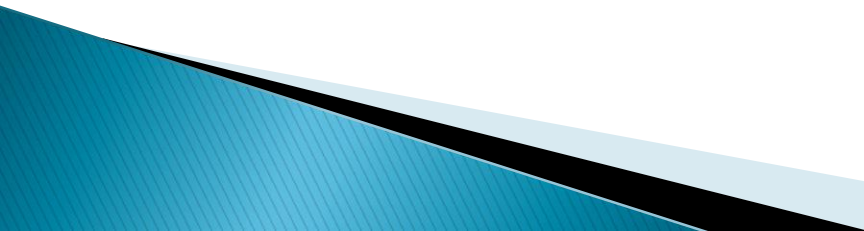
- ▶ Aim to develop a comprehensive picture of ASD service utilization across all four Atlantic Provinces.
- ▶ Anticipate challenges merging and building datasets.
- ▶ Aim to have researchers here and in other provinces collaborating.



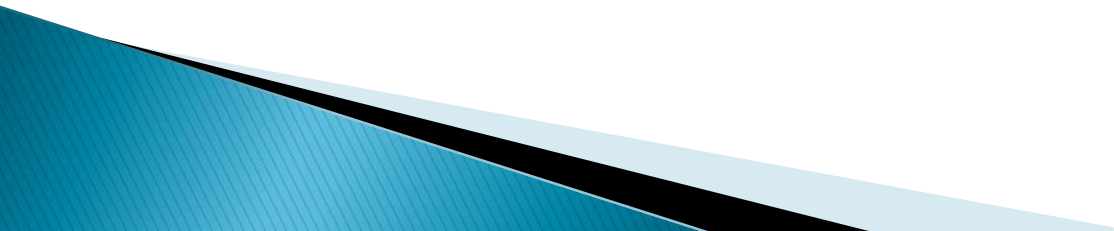
Operations Research

- ▶ In healthcare, Operations Research (OR) techniques have been used to achieve success in strategic planning and resource allocation
- ▶ The following techniques will be applied:
 - Simulation modeling
 - Systems analysis tools and process modeling
 - Queuing optimization

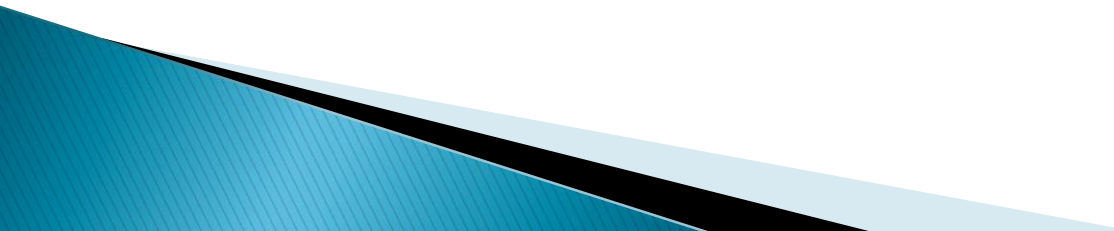
Autism Spectrum Disorder

- ▶ There is significant interest in the project to study ASD.
 - ▶ Patrick Murphy (supervised by Roger Chafe) is interested in examining transitions from the youth system to the adult system.
 - ▶ Laura Hurley (supervised by Kate Tilleczek and me) is looking at early diagnosis and treatment.
 - ▶ Both will rely on qualitative research methods and will conduct interviews with families, service providers and policy makers.
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A Parallel Project is in the works...

- ▶ We are also currently seeking funding to conduct a thorough needs assessment of the ASD community in Newfoundland and Labrador.
 - ▶ Working in collaboration with ASNL to secure funding
 - ▶ Aim is to reach out to ASNL membership and a wide range of service providers and stakeholders in the ASD community.
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Cont...

- ▶ Also want to reach beyond ASNL membership. Will be a challenge.
 - ▶ Wide focus on children, youth and adults and across the spectrum.
 - ▶ Working with numerous prospective business partners.
 - ▶ Want to try to build a 'resource map' to identify where families experiencing ASD can go to access a variety of services.
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Conclusion

- ▶ Lots of timely and important work being done.
 - ▶ We have integrated the research program with the ARTC Master's in Applied Health Services Research
 - ▶ Several students working on the project now (Michael Bartellas and Shauna Wells in addition to Hurley and Murphy.) A PhD student based in Halifax (Mackenzie) and several more at UNB. Hoping to add a PhD student here (Clair) as well as a Post-doctoral researcher.
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