

Filling the void: Building a Collaborative Adult Autism Spectrum Disorder Service

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Stakeholders engaged in building the service:

Adults with ASD
Parents of adults with ASD
Mental Health Service
Oliver Primary Care Network
Clinicians from the Glenrose Rehabilitation Hospital

The void:

Alberta faces a crisis due to barriers to access of appropriate health services for adults with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). A pilot adult ASD service is beginning to address this need.

What we did:

We built a collaborative service model that focuses on three objectives:

1. Developing a diagnostic service for adults
2. Providing consultation on medical management
3. Building capacity amongst primary care providers

Challenges:

- Integrating a new service into existing infrastructure: space, systems, processes
- Collaborating with community partners from diverse systems
- Identifying and implementing evidence based practices for adults
- Designing and maintaining evaluation measures

Our values:

- Person/Family-Centered Care
- Sensitivity to the specific needs of persons with ASD
- Responsiveness and accessibility
- Capacity building
- Scalability and sustainability
- Evidence-informed and evidence generating practices

What we've accomplished:

- Built a diagnostic model and more than 40 adults have been seen for a diagnosis
- Developed capacity building presentations for primary care
- Developed a consultation model for medical consultation liaising with primary care
- Initiated ethics application for a video ethnography as part of the evaluation

Next Steps:

- Build toolkits to increase capacity in primary care networks
- Continue evaluation of diagnostic and consultation services
- Develop video ethnography as part of impact evaluation

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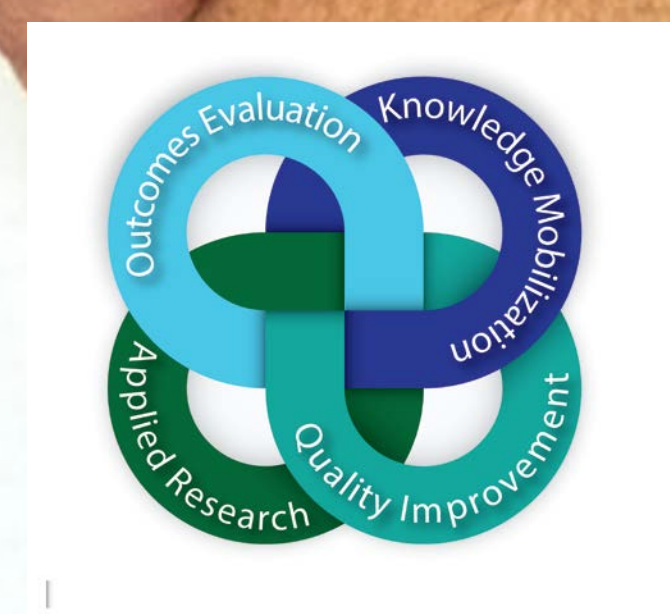


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