

Monday, July 13, 2020

Re: An Open Letter to Ontario's Health Regulators

To Whom It May Concern:

Thank you for your letter of July 2, 2020 in which you raised concerns regarding police involvement in mental health checks. You have rightfully expressed concerns that we all need to work on together to address and improve.

As five of the professional regulatory bodies whose registrants/members are authorized to perform the controlled act of psychotherapy in Ontario, we recognize that profound societal, political and institutional changes are needed to address all forms of systemic racism impacting the Black, Indigenous and People of Colour communities served by our respective members.

Regulatory colleges are mandated to protect the public by:

- **Setting entry-to-practice requirements** which ensure only qualified individuals are issued certificates of registration to practise the profession;
- Ensuring that only those who are registered use the **protected titles** or **hold themselves out** as a member of the profession;
- Setting and maintaining **Standards of Practice** and ensuring that all registrants/members practise in accordance with these, and demonstrate ongoing currency and competence through required **Quality Assurance/Continuing Competence Programs**; and
- **Maintaining rigorous complaints and discipline processes** which hold registrants/members accountable and permit colleges to take remedial or disciplinary action when standards of practice are breached.

Regulatory colleges have a distinct public protection mandate set out in legislation. This does not include advocacy on behalf of professions or individual practitioners which is the role of professional associations.

Regulators play a very important role in providing practice guidance to registrants/members to ensure that they practise ethically and professionally. Colleges assist registrants/members to employ sound clinical and ethical judgment in making decisions in the best interests of the individuals, families and communities to whom they provide care. This includes considerations related to health equity, diversity and inclusion. The standards of practice of each of our colleges require registrants/members to use their professional judgment to consider the broad range of options available in crisis situations. Each of our colleges is looking at their role and the steps they can take to work on issues of diversity, inclusion and anti-racist practice.

We wish to work with our registrants/members to facilitate positive change and welcome any specific suggestions about how to address these serious issues. We recognize that the necessary system-level changes will require a concerted effort among all key stakeholders, including the regulatory colleges, and we are committed to working together where possible to fight systemic racism.

Sincerely,



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