

# Immigration Detentions at St. Lawrence Valley Correctional & Treatment Centre

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Mental Health - Care & Research  
Santé mentale - Soins et recherche

# SLVCTC-STU

- 100 bed inpatient facility opened in 2003 in Brockville
- Partnership between MCSCS and the Royal Ottawa Health Care Group
- Provide mental health services for adult male sentenced offenders in the province of Ontario
- Residents are criminally responsible for their offences

# STU MANDATE

- Provide mental health centre standard services to seriously mentally ill offenders serving a provincial sentence (Schedule 1 facility)
- Service the most vulnerable offenders within the 25 male correctional facilities in Ontario
- Provide services within a safe, therapeutic environment
- Facilitate effective reintegration to resident's home community and reduce recidivism
- Perform as a Centre of Excellence in treatment, education and research

# PROGRAMS

4 x 25 bed units:

- 3E - Assessment & Stabilization Program
- 3W - Trauma Disorders Program
- 2E - Sexual Behaviours Program
- 2W - Aggressive Behaviour Modulation Program

\*No exclusivity, every unit able to manage any resident.

# REFERRAL PROCESS

- Inmates are accepted by referral **only** from MCSCS adult male correctional facilities in Ontario
- Referrals initiated by Classification Officers
- Referrals reviewed by a joint committee
- Consideration for admission approval (as per approved Admission Criteria):
  - Target population is provincially sentenced adult male inmates with high mental health treatment needs with or without high criminogenic treatment needs;
  - Security level / risk on a case-by-case basis;
  - Length of sentence (4 to 5 month sentence is optimum)
  - Capacity of the STU;
  - Current correctional status (i.e. special needs);
  - Psychiatric reports are taken into consideration.
- Remand and Immigration Hold inmates are admitted by **exception** only for crisis intervention and stabilization
  - Serving provincial sentence @ STU, detained upon release date by CBSA
  - Admitted while already detained by CBSA
  - Currently 2 residents on “holds”

# ROLE OF SW IN IMMIGRATION CASES

- Each resident is assigned a Social Worker
- Complete an initial assessment
  - Housing
  - Finances
  - Access to Medication
  - Medical Care
  - Identification
  - Psychiatric Care
  - Mental Health Supports / Case Management
  - Substance Abuse
  - Liaise with Probation and Parole
  - Contact Lawyer / Designated Representative
  - Connect with family
  - Etc.
- Attend regular Detention Reviews
- Liaise with lawyer / designated representative
- Liaise with family or agencies involved
- Advocacy
- Discharge Planning
- Much higher workload for Immigration Holds

# BARRIERS TO PLANNING

- No guaranteed release date
- No community supports
- Major Mental Illness
- No consent to share information
- Criminal background (violence, arson, sex offence, etc)
- Lack of identification
- Lack of cooperation from CBSA
  - Time frame
  - Assessments
  - Pressure to deport
- Loss of permanent resident status
  - Loss of access to health coverage, social assistance, etc.

# SERVICES TO TRY TO ACCESS

- Supervised living arrangements
  - Group homes
  - Halfway houses
  - Rooming houses
- Residential treatment facilities
- Case management services
- Addictions follow up
- ACT Team
- Psychiatry
- Financial support
- Bail Program
- IDs
- Community Treatment Orders \*\*



# CASE EXAMPLE – “Mr. I”

- 32 year old male moved from Somalia in 2000 with family
- Served 10 day sentence (DPD Nov 21/16), then detained by CBSA – arrived at SLV Jan 18/17
- Upon arrival @ STU: smearing feces; throwing semen; poor hygiene; unkempt; eating meals in toilet bowl; fasting; paranoia; hallucinations
- Dx of Schizophrenia; history of drug & alcohol abuse
- 50 previous adult convictions
- No contact with family
- Incapable to consent to treatment (SDM = PG&T)
- Lengthy medication stabilization process

# CASE EXAMPLE – “Mr. I”

- SW attended monthly Detention Reviews
- Previous supports could not commit without a firm discharge date
- Toronto Bail Program – previous involvement
- Advocacy for follow up by TBP with CBSA
- Released on January 18/18 (423 days on “hold”)
  - DARE Program for housing
  - ODSP
  - Doctor
  - TBP supervising
  - CTO \*\*
  - Regular reporting