

# **“School Mental Health Leadership Team”**

## **Peel District School Board**

In Peel we have multidisciplinary, multi-layered mental health leadership teams.

The **Steering Committee** is comprised of:

- Superintendent of Special Education Services
- Chief Psychologist
- Chief Social Worker
- Coordinator - Student Well Being
- Coordinator - Behaviour Services
- Coordinator – Integrated Services

This group of leaders work collaboratively to create the conditions that are necessary for the delivery of system wide mental health and well being services.

The **Working Table** is comprised membership from:

- Senior Leadership from the Director’s Office
- The Steering Committee (listed above)
- Human Resources Support Services – Health, Wellness and Safety
- Speech - Language Pathologist
- Climate for Learning and Working
- Assessment and Accountability
- Elementary and Secondary Principal and Vice Principal Association
- Learning Technology Support Services
- Communications and Community Relations Support Services
- Leadership Development and School Support Services
- Alternative Programs
- Middle School and Secondary guidance counsellors
- Teaching Assistants

This leadership team represents many of the key stakeholders in our system. They guided the process of base line data collection and will be instrumental in the implementation of the mental health strategy.

### **Reflections:**

- Having a mental health leader has enabled us to move Peel’s Mental Health Strategy forward, in particular, providing professional development for all stakeholders designed to increase mental health awareness
- It has been beneficial to move thoughtfully forward, taking the time to discuss ideas together in a multi-disciplinary manner

- We found benefit to have membership of our working table representing a board array of stakeholders. The membership enabled robust conversation from a multitude of perspectives
- Communication is critical within and without the working table, steering the system. It's importance cannot be overstated
- The work is messy and resembles chaos theory. Be at peace and keep moving forward
- The work is making a difference in de-stigmatizing mental health for students and staff
- Reaching out to community partners is a vital element to creating a mental health strategy for the board
- Having a Collaborative Agreement Protocol in place has been helpful to launch the additional mental health workers supporting schools and to identify and approve evidence-based programs for intervention that align with our strategy and good practice
- We still have many next steps to take, including the involvement of parent and student voices in the development of our mental health strategy

## **Contact Information:**

**Superintendent of Special Education Services**  
[louise.sirisko@peelsb.com](mailto:louise.sirisko@peelsb.com)

**Chief Psychologist**  
[jack.kamrad@peelsb.com](mailto:jack.kamrad@peelsb.com)

**Chief Social Worker**  
[jim.vanbuskirk@peelsb.com](mailto:jim.vanbuskirk@peelsb.com)

**Co-ordinator – Behaviour**  
[fawcett-carter@peelsb.com](mailto:fawcett-carter@peelsb.com)

**Co-ordinator – Integrated Services**  
[bob.cambria@peelsb.com](mailto:bob.cambria@peelsb.com)

**Co-ordinator – Student Well Being**  
[maureen.mackay@peelsb.com](mailto:maureen.mackay@peelsb.com)