



Holistic healthcare for the neighborhoods of downtown Toronto

IMAGINE Executive Summary

Vision

Foster partnerships between underserved communities and students in healthcare disciplines to support holistic care

Mission

Collaborate with the community to create a student-run clinic using an interdisciplinary approach to health and wellbeing.

Community to be served

IMAGINE aims to help the traditionally underserved populations, including but not limited to, aboriginal, mental health, substance use, poor, and the homeless.

St. Christopher House serves the West End downtown core of Toronto (wards 19/20).

Rationale

In response to gaps in service and care identified by St. Christopher House the concept for a student run health clinic emerged. The underlying rationale for the clinic and its services encompass the following areas:

- 1) **Service** – The clinic will provide hassle-free, basic health care services to the community through an inter-professional model. Utilizing professional mentors, students will assist clients (actually two-on-one) to meet their individual health needs. In addition the clinic will provide health education seminars in response to community identified gaps in knowledge. The clinic will operate on Saturdays. Through the clinic we will also undertake research investigations to improve services; respond to changing community needs and assist with advocacy actions.
- 2) **IPC/E** – The clinic will operate on an inter-professional model with students from the Dentistry, Nursing, Nutrition, Medicine Occupational Therapy, Pharmacy, Physical Health and Education, Physiotherapy, SLP, and Social Work disciplines. This approach has two outcomes; the first is to improve access to health care for our community by serving a range of health needs in one visit. The second will be to provide a unique environment for student inter-professional collaboration in a team learning environment. This approach will provide the foundational experience with interdisciplinary practice which students will utilize throughout their careers.
- 3) **Community based education** – This clinic will increase students' understanding of the socioeconomic determinants of health. This setting will expose students to a primary practice model, including health education strategies and health promotion principles of working in partnership with communities to achieve health outcomes.
- 4) **Health Education** –IMAGINE will assess and address gaps in the health knowledge needs of the community through educational workshops. These workshops will provide an opportunity to discuss current health and well being issues in a non-threatening, open and supportive environment. They will also provide students with the opportunity to learn from clients about their health barriers. These workshops will lead to a comprehensive health promotion strategy to address emerging health needs as the clinic evolves.

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5) **University/Community Partnership** – This student run clinic will forge links between the community and the University of Toronto, highlighting the University's commitment to community partnerships. Additionally the clinic will work with other Toronto agencies to share best practices and build strong referral networks. These partnerships will expose students to the types of services they can draw upon in their practice to promote the holistic health of their clients.

6) **Breaking Barriers** – The clinic was established to increase access to comprehensive health services for our target community. In partnership with St. Christopher House we will build an environment of collaboration, participation, respect, dialogue and shared learning to form a trusting relationship between health care providers and this under-served community.

7) **Organizational Structure** – The clinic planning, operations and function will be run by a student led committee comprising members from the health professional faculties listed above. This committee will operate with the guidance of an advisory committee composed of faculty and distinguished community service providers.

8) **Models of Excellence** – Similar initiatives have been undertaken by universities in British Columbia, Saskatchewan and Alberta. These clinics have shared their experience, learning and expertise with us in the establishment and operation of their clinic through publications and personal contact. We hope to do the same for other start up student run clinics as our experience grows and our own expertise is realized.

Scope of practice

Clinic services would include a full health assessment and services related to addiction and mental health, wound care, oral hygiene, diabetes, alcohol and substance use withdrawal. Additionally the clinic will strive to connect clients with other necessary community services.

In partnership with the community, students will plan educational sessions on topics identified by clients. Students will collaborate with mentors to develop these educational workshops and help to train subsequent students.

Partners

IMAGINE is currently partnered with the Office of Health Professions Student Affairs, Faculty of Medicine, Faculty of Dentistry, and the Faculty of Pharmacy at the University of Toronto, St. Christopher House, Queen West Community Health Centre, and St. Michael's Hospital. We will also be approaching clinicians at CAMH, Seaton House, The Hospital for Sick Children, Street Health, and the LIHN (for wards 19/20) for collaboration.

Funding Agencies

We have received funding from the Canadian Medical Association (CMA) Leadership Innovation Fund, Canadian Federation of Medical Students (CFMS) Project Funding Initiative, and the Faculty of Pharmacy's Student Experience Fund. We will apply for funding from the University of Toronto's Medical Society, the Toronto Notes for Students Inc, and other university-based, local, and provincial sources. Funding received from these sources will help in sustaining the mission and vision of the IMAGINE clinic.

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