

Overview of DDMHT Services

The Developmental Disability Mental Health Team (DDMHT) is a specialized community based MH consultative service under Mental Health and Substance Use Services VIHA focusing on clients with diagnosed Developmental Disability and mental health disorders.

The team objective is to support clients in community settings and to reduce and eliminate hospital and emergency encounters. Through timely assessment and consultation, DDMHT supports informal & formal caregivers and families to increase and build capacity to manage and support individuals safely in the community.

Developmental Disability Service Stream.

Eligibility:

For adults, Community Living British Columbia (CLBC) or physician are our referral pathways. Patients must meet the eligibility requirements for developmental disability (DD) as described in the diagnostic criteria DSM IV for mental retardation (MR) and/ or DSM-5 diagnostic criteria for Intellectual Disability.

Children & Youth ages 14 – 18 yrs.

For children and youth, the Ministry of Children and Families (MCFD), Children and Youth with Special Needs division (CYSN) or physicians are our referral pathways.

As with adult eligibility criteria, youth need to be diagnosed as having a Developmental disability, or there are clear indicators that they will meet the criteria for DD prior to transitioning to adult services.

Referral Pathway

1. 19 yrs. plus Community Living BC
2. 14yrs- 18yrs MCFD/CYSN.
3. Physician direct referral

Core services involve a multidisciplinary team approach, (Nursing/Psychiatry). Our service works alongside community partners such as HSCL, behaviour consultants, CLBC/MCFD funded agencies supporting our clients and CLBC/MCFD.

All completed referrals are reviewed and triaged from the South island office in Victoria..

Collaboration:

Collaboration is key to the success of this service model. The primary physician and pediatrician or other involved specialists *must be* in favor of the Consultation for it to proceed. This will be required in writing via the Request for Medical Referral form.

DDMHT will schedule the initial assessment and, if involved, notify MCFD CYSN or CLBC, who we suggest also attend to facilitate the shared care approach.

Geographical coverage of service:

Out of town patients may travel to their respective city centre to see the Psychiatrist or a Telehealth consultation can be arranged. During time of pandemic, only virtual visits will be arranged through our office. This DDMHT office serves all of Vancouver Island and the surrounding gulf islands.