

CASA CHILD, ADOLESCENT AND FAMILY MENTAL HEALTH

QUOTES FOR MEDIA MATERIALS

Bonnie Blakley, CEO

“CASA Child, Adolescent and Family Mental Health is pleased to partner with government to bring mental health services closer to Albertan Kids,” says CASA Chief Executive Officer Bonnie Blakley. “CASA has delivered specialized mental health treatment to kids aged three to 18 for more than 30 years. Expanding these services aligns with our vision of a community where all kids have access to timely care and are empowered to thrive.”

Janet Hancock, Board Chair

“As a lifelong educator, I’m grateful the province is making mental health service in classrooms possible,” says CASA Board Chair Janet Hancock. “In my career I was able to pioneer mental health classrooms with wraparound services. I have lived their effectiveness to support children and families. I have seen firsthand how specialized mental health services such as those provided by CASA can save young lives.”

ABOUT CASA’S PLAN FOR MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES IN CLASSROOMS

- By removing barriers to access, intervening early, educating and up-skilling our partners, and providing step-up from community-based services, we aim to prevent more intensive services later in life. Providing a step-down from intensive services, we will also address gaps and issues in the mental health system for more seamless and easier-to-navigate services.
- Three to six classrooms will launch February 2023, including in Edmonton and Sturgeon County. The goal is for 20 operational mental health service classrooms serving 360 children per year by 2024.
- Classrooms will be a mix of elementary, junior high and high schools.
- Embedded classroom teams will include a mental health therapist, classroom behavioural therapist, and a psychiatrist. Support teams will include a social worker, nurse, assessment psychologist, occupational therapist, and speech and language therapist.
- Ongoing services will include: evaluation and assessments to inform care plans; individual and group therapy; medication trials and management; family therapy and parenting support; and consultation, education, observation and recommendations for transitions.



CASA

Child, Adolescent and Family
Mental Health

ABOUT CASA

CASA is an Edmonton-based non-profit organization that has delivered holistic, culturally safe wrap-around mental health services to children (age three to 18) and their families for more than 30 years in Alberta. We do this through a team of specialized mental health professionals who are trauma experts committed to delivering outcomes-based programming in collaboration with community partners. CASA's vision is a community where all children, youth and their families are provided timely mental health care and empowered to thrive.

OUR FIVE-YEAR ROADMAP (2022-2027)

CASA will focus on the following areas over the next five years:

1. Leaders in delivering child-centred, family-inclusive mental health services.
2. Programming efficacy and relevance.
3. Financial health.

HOW IS CASA LEVELING UP SERVICES TO KIDS AND FAMILIES?

- Expanding services in our own footprints and moving to evening, weekend and summer programming;
- Enhancing online services;
- Going to where kids are, by working with community partners to find spaces in their facilities and organizations to provide service.

Learn more about CASA programs at casaservices.org.



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