



May 1, 2018

Stronger Together to Serve Families

Dear Families and Partners,

We are very pleased to announce that the Board of Directors of Blue Hills Child and Family Centre and The York Centre for Children, Youth and Families have entered into formal discussions to explore the opportunity to amalgamate both Agencies and create a new Children's Mental Health Centre to serve children, youth and families across York Region. There are a number of important steps in the early stages of this process, including a thorough "due diligence" assessment which will help inform both Boards as to the viability of this amalgamation and move to a final decision to create a new Entity. This initial phase of discovery will take approximately 3 months.

After careful assessment, the Boards are confident that this initiative will result in significant benefits for families across York Region. Both Agencies have a long history of service excellence and commitment to families. Our vision is that by joining together we will combine our staff expertise, programs and services and create even greater capacity to provide high quality mental health services. Blue Hills Centre and The York Centre already deliver some complimentary programs and together in the future, we will expand our continuum of services and increase our ability to offer more choices to children, youth and their families.

This initiative aligns very closely with the Ministry of Children and Youth Services, *Moving on Mental Health*, reform strategy that is intended to improve coordination of services, address service gaps and improve outcomes for children and youth. Our staff will remain our greatest asset. We believe this initiative will improve our sustainability into the future and strengthen our ability to attract, retain and invest in our staff.

Throughout this process we are committed to ensuring there is no disruption to client services and we will continue to work closely with all of our partners.

The Boards have also endorsed a principle of open and transparent communication with our staff, families and partners. To this end, we will make ongoing efforts to keep you informed of our progress.

If you have any questions about this amalgamation, please do not hesitate to call Dean Rokos, Executive Director, The York Centre (905-737-8927), or Vince Tedesco, interim Executive Director, Blue Hills Child and Family Centre (905-773-4323).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. Rebellato".

Steven Rebellato
Board President, Blue Hills

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "K. Jog".

Kalindi Jog
Board President, The York Centre