

2022-2023  
Annual Report



St. Clair  
Child & Youth Services  
Empowering Mental Wellness



# Acknowledgement of Ancestral Lands



Sarnia-Lambton Ontario Health Team (OHT) partners, collectively, acknowledge our obligation to truth and reconciliation and acknowledge that this land on which we are gathered today is part of the ancestral land of the Chippewa, Odawa, and Potawatomi peoples, referred to collectively as the Anishinaabeg. It is through the connection of the Anishinaabeg with the spirit of the land, water and air that we recognize their unique cultures, traditions, and values. Together as treaty people, we have a shared responsibility to act with respect for the environment that sustains all life, protecting the future for those generations to come. Please take a moment to reflect on your own commitment to demonstrate change through your words and actions that honour the Calls to Action.



## Board of Directors

St. Clair Child & Youth Services is governed by a community Board of Directors. Essentially the membership of the Board is drawn from citizens either living or working in the community. Persons from all walks of life have been or are represented on the Board, in an effort to reflect a broad cross-section of the community and a diverse number of viewpoints. Efforts are made to ensure that there is a balanced, equitable representation from business, professional, ethno-racial and other groups located in the community and served by the agency.



### 2022-23 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Stephanie Cortez  
**President**

Christine Canapini  
**Vice-President**

Sean Keane  
**Treasurer**

Julie Cardy  
**Past President**

Cole Anderson, Liane Cooper, Erin Gower, Ryan LeBlanc, Sara Lopetrone, Doug Mathany,  
Maria Moore, Arianna Noctor, Jody Pratt, Carly Roberts, Robert Walker

# Our Message

## Blossoming Potential to Flourishing Success

An organization's growth can be compared to the transition between spring and summer, where nature undergoes a remarkable transformation. During this transition, St. Clair Child & Youth Services (SCCYS), like many organizations emerging from the pandemic, has encountered challenges, much like the fluctuating weather patterns of spring. Resilient organizations find ways to adapt and overcome these obstacles. We reassess our strategies, adjust our course, and learn from setbacks, just as plants bend and sway with the wind while staying rooted in the ground.

Just as the seed requires nourishment and care to sprout, organizations need strong foundations, strategic planning, and dedicated leaders who provide the necessary resources and guidance. Together, the staff, leadership team, and Board of Directors developed a robust strategic plan for the next four years which encompasses a strong focus on Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion, advancing mental health care and planning for children and youth, and fostering a healthy and thriving workplace.

As the first signs of spring emerge, organizations experience a period of growth and renewal. It is akin to the sprouting of delicate buds and the blossoming of vibrant flowers. Similarly, the organization begins to flourish, with new ideas, projects, and initiatives taking shape. This growth phase may involve hiring new talent, expanding into new markets, or adopting innovative technologies.

Our organization recognizes the importance of equity, diversity, and inclusion in all aspects of our work. We are committed to actively promoting an inclusive and accessible environment for all children and youth in Lambton County seeking mental health care. We are dedicated to understanding and addressing the unique needs of marginalized communities, ensuring that our services are culturally sensitive and barrier-free.

We understand the urgency of addressing the growing mental health crisis among this vulnerable population. SCCYS will collaborate with our community partners through the meaningful work of the Sarnia-Lambton Ontario Health Team and provide leadership on other community planning tables to advocate for improved access to mental health services, early intervention programs, and evidence-based treatments.


Just as summer brings its challenges, such as scorching heat or intense competition, organizations must sustain their growth momentum and stay adaptable. We recognize that our employees are the backbone of our organization and play a pivotal role in delivering quality care for our community. We recognize the importance of fostering a healthy and thriving workplace and fostering a culture of innovation. We are committed to creating a supportive and inclusive work environment that prioritizes employee well-being, professional and personal growth. We aim to empower our staff to provide the best possible care for the children and youth we serve.

In summary, an organization's growth mirrors the transition between spring and summer—a journey from dormant potential to flourishing success. It requires nurturing, adaptation, resilience, and the ability to seize opportunities. By embracing these qualities, we believe that St. Clair Child & Youth Services can navigate the seasons of growth and create a thriving and fruitful future.

In gratitude,



Stephanie Cortez  
President – Board of Directors



Craig McKenzie  
Interim Executive Director

**Vision**

Mental wellness for infants, children, youth and families.

**Mission**

Together, creating paths to mental wellness for infants, children, youth and families.

**Values**

- Collaborative
- Strength-based
- Respect
- Inclusion
- Compassion
- Responsive
- Family-focused

## Strategic Directions



**Embed foundational Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion practices in our agency and in all we do**

- Enter this work through an intersectional lens, as learners, with curiosity, understanding this as long-term work that requires change in all of us
- Actively build relationships and learn how, in partnership, to best support Indigenous children, youth, and families
- Develop strategies to serve Francophone communities
- Ensure our HR practices follow EDI principles and practices
- Review and change our policies and practices towards greater equity, diversity, and inclusion



**Advance mental health care for children and youth**

- Ensure the voices of youth and families are heard and included to inform our work
- Provide leadership to influence system level work through the Ontario Health Team and the Child and Youth Mental Health Lead Agency Consortium as well as align with the provincial mental health & addiction data strategy
- Raise awareness and advocate for the fundamental needs of infant, children, and youth mental health
- Within our current context, deliver services to better meet the complex and evolving needs of infants, children, youth, and families



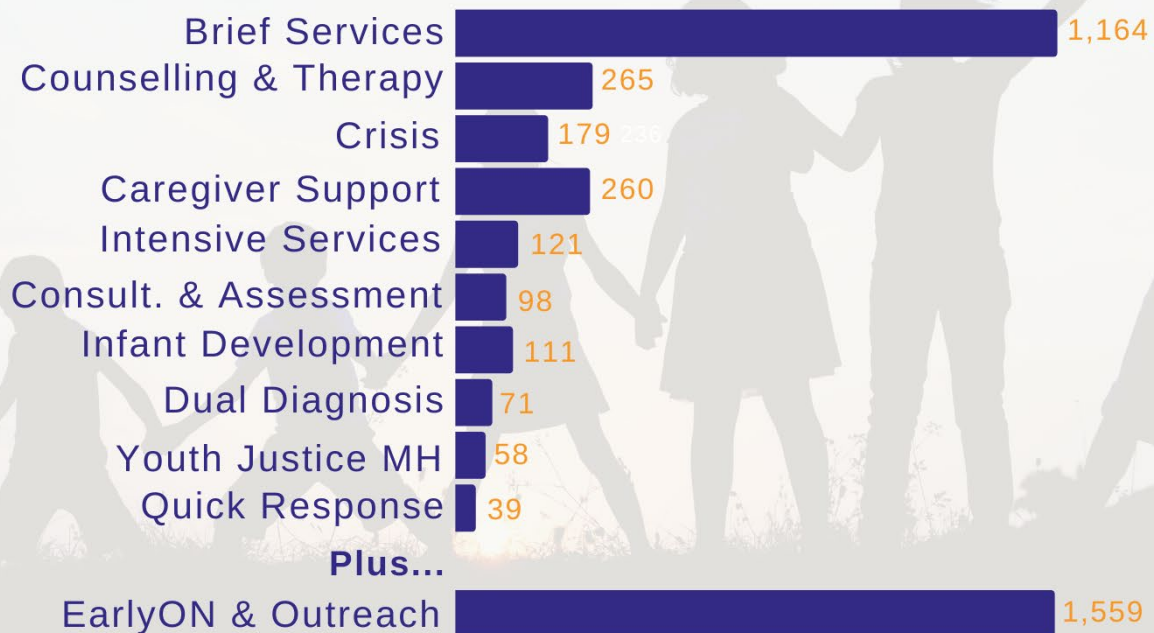
**Foster a Healthy, Thriving Workplace**

- Establish strong recruitment and retention strategies to renew and sustain our workforce
- Foster an environment that supports wellbeing
- Establish greater engagement and communication channels
- Advance our culture as a learning organization
- Develop an effective leadership succession plan

# Service Outcomes

## 2022-2023 by the numbers

We served almost **3,400** children, youth, and parents/caregivers in the 2022-2023 fiscal year, including...



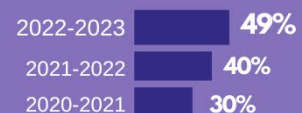
## Top Presenting Issues

for clients that accessed services in the 2022-2023 fiscal year...

- ① Emotional difficulties
- ② Anxiety
- ③ Dysregulation
- ④ Behaviours at home
- ⑤ Parenting difficulties

## Pandemic Impact

The proportion of children and youth presenting with **Dysregulation** has increased since the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic.

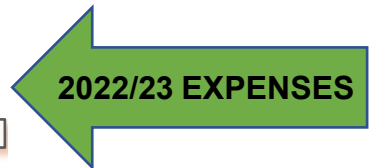
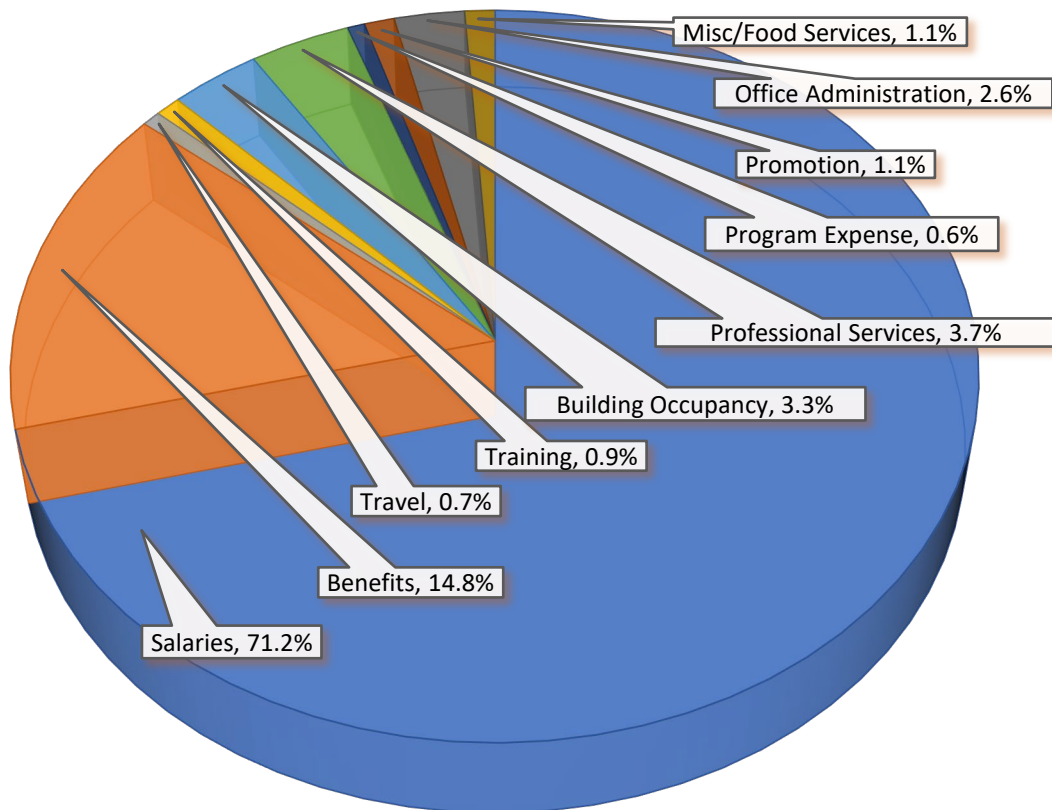


\*Includes all Agency Intake programs for clients at first contact

# Financials

## Statement of Financial Position as at March 31, 2023

| ASSETS                                   | 2023                | 2022                |
|------------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| <b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>                    |                     |                     |
| Cash and Investments                     | \$ 1,019,652        | \$ 1,069,341        |
| Short Term Investments                   | 271,030             | 266,060             |
| Harmonized Sales Tax (HST) Recoverable   | 25,144              | 20,781              |
| Accounts Receivable                      | -                   | 6,484               |
| Prepaid Expenses                         | 6,515               | 18,942              |
| <b>Total Current Assets</b>              | <b>1,322,341</b>    | <b>1,381,608</b>    |
| <b>PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT</b>            | <b>923,374</b>      | <b>992,676</b>      |
| <b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>                      | <b>\$ 2,245,715</b> | <b>\$ 2,374,284</b> |
| <b>LIABILITIES</b>                       |                     |                     |
| <b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>               |                     |                     |
| Accounts Payable and Accrued liabilities | \$ 138,065          | \$ 179,596          |
| Deferred Revenue                         | 290,649             | 378,819             |
| <b>Total Current Liabilities</b>         | <b>428,714</b>      | <b>558,415</b>      |
| <b>Fund Balances</b>                     |                     |                     |
| <b>GENERAL AND CAPITAL FUND</b>          | <b>1,817,001</b>    | <b>1,815,869</b>    |
| <b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>                 | <b>\$ 2,245,715</b> | <b>\$ 2,374,284</b> |



# Employee Milestones



We are pleased to acknowledge and celebrate those staff who have reached service milestones. Many thanks to each of you for your dedication to St. Clair Child & Youth Services and your important role in serving our community.

## 30 Years

- ❖ **Chantal Mino**, Senior Prevention Worker

## 20 Years

- ❖ **Melissa Lau**, Social Worker

## 15 Years

- ❖ **Brittney Darisi**, Mental Health Counsellor

## 10 Years

- ❖ **Rob Mancusi**, Mental Health Counsellor
- ❖ **Morgan Surridge**, Children's Program Worker



2022 | 2023

THANK YOU

- to our clients and families for your continued trust in St. Clair Child & Youth Services' ability to provide you with high-quality and responsive mental health services;
- to our staff and students for your exceptional service throughout this challenging year. Your dedication to our mission to create paths to mental wellness for the infants, children, youth and families in our community was upheld with compassion and professionalism;
- to Spoken Hope and the Board of Directors for your commitment to the important leadership work you have taken on;
- to our generous supporters. We have received donations from individuals, businesses and foundations that have significantly enhanced the service and support we are able to provide to our community;
- to our volunteers for giving your time and talents in support of children's mental health;
- to our community partners for collaborating with us towards creating a stronger children's mental health system to best serve our infants, children, youth and families;
- to the Anishinaabeg peoples for the unique contributions you have made both in shaping and strengthening this community.

**St. Clair**  
Child & Youth Services

Empowering Mental Wellness

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