

July 19, 2019

Hon. Christine Elliott, Minister of Health
Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care
5th Floor
777 Bay Street
Toronto, ON M7A 2J3

Dear Hon. Christine Elliott,

I am writing to you regarding Quintin Warner House, a live-in addiction treatment program for men, operated by Mission Services of London. Quintin Warner House is one of only two programs within the former Southwest LHIN that offer live-in treatment. It is also the only program within the former Southwest LHIN that provides second stage supportive housing for men who have completed the program.

Quintin Warner House, before April 1, 2019, offered a four-month program for 14 men. Now, staff has had to be reduced due to budget shortfalls, and the program runs for only three months for 10 men. While Mission Services of London is committed to serving men who need their services with as much quality and care as is possible under the new conditions, these service reductions will ultimately result in less effective client outcomes. With the changes, there is a loss of support workers meaning that Mission Services of London will no longer be able to offer the same level of second-stage housing with the same effective stay post-graduation, impeding on successful, long-term recovery. Within the context of the current housing crisis, reducing the second stage housing previously available, after program completion, might leave only one option available for the new graduates: to go into emergency shelters. That is not an acceptable solution for those recovering from trauma and addictions.

Quintin Warner House treats men not only from London, but from across the province. It is a program that is meaningful not only to clients, but to members of the community like me. A healthy and thriving community, the kind of place we all would wish to call home, can only be that way with healthy and thriving individuals, which Quintin Warner House helps to cultivate.

With the recent budget gap and service reductions, Quintin Warner House struggles to maintain the same level of treatment and care offered before April 1, 2019. To help our neighbours in need at a time when they are reaching out for assistance on their recovery journey means to provide treatment using best practices.

While there has been, and continues to be, support for Quintin Warner House programming, as a concerned Londoner, I urge that you help Quintin Warner House get back to best practice with

increased funding for adequate staffing (including appropriate evening and weekend staffing), increased treatment program length to return to the prior duration, and a return to the original second-stage housing stay options so clients can experience effective treatment at a time when it is desperately needed in London (and in Ontario).

Sincerely,

Name (print)

Signature