

Colleagues,

The past four years have seen great change for our youth suffering from mental health and substance use difficulties. The Child and Youth Mental Health and Substance Use (CYMHSU) Collaborative, funded by the Joint Clinical Committees (GP Services, Shared Care, and Specialist Services), has brought together hundreds of stakeholders including physicians across the province to alter the landscape for our youth.

We ask you to join us in the next phase of physician engagement in youth mental health and substance use. Some of the organizational structures under consideration to influence this work include:

1. Through the formation of a Section of Child and Youth Mental Health and Substance Use Physicians, constituted under the bylaws of the Doctors of BC.
2. Through a working group funded and supported by the Shared Care Committee of the Doctors of BC.
3. Through a community of practice spearheaded by some of the thought leaders in this area.

This is an interdisciplinary initiative that recognizes the importance of family physicians and specialists. All physicians who participate in the care of children and youth with mental health and substance use concerns are welcome.

Already we have seen the Shared Care Committee commit upwards of \$600,000 over the next two years to fund continued physician engagement in this important area.

We invite you to indicate your interest in participating in these initiatives over the next two years. We have already received dozens of signatures from your colleagues during the final Congress of the Collaborative. Please contact Nikita Soares [nsoares@doctorsofbc.ca](mailto:nsoares@doctorsofbc.ca) or click [here](#) to indicate your preferred level of participation.

Thank you.

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*(speaking for a broad coalition of physicians from family medicine, pediatrics, psychiatry, and other areas of medicine)*