Supervisor Name: Dr. Nadiya Sunderji, MD MPH FRCPC

Project Title: Advancing the Implementation of Mental Health Quality Standards Using Quality Improvement Science and Human Centered Design

Hospital/Research Institution: Waypoint Centre for Mental Health Care, Waypoint Research Institute, and Li Ka Shing Knowledge Institute (Unity Health)

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Field of Research (2 keywords): mental health, quality improvement

Department: n/a

School of Graduate Studies Appointment (IMS, LMP, IHPME etc)? Yes
If YES, please name: IHPME
**Brief Project Description (<300 words):**

**Background:** Mental health lags other areas of medicine in applying quality improvement (QI) science to improve healthcare delivery. Provincial psychiatric hospitals can play a leadership role in testing and disseminating strategies to implement Health Quality Ontario’s mental healthcare quality standards.

**Objective/Aims:** To evaluate current practices at Waypoint Centre for Mental Health Care in relation to the quality standards and peer institution benchmarks, explore stakeholders’ perspectives of improvement opportunities, and make recommendations for QI. We will investigate current prescribing practices (quantitative), explore opportunities to increase uptake of evidence-informed treatments (qualitative), and assess the timeliness and coordination of transitions in care (quantitative, qualitative).

**Methods:**
1. Quantitative analysis of data from EHR and administrative databases (working with decision support specialists)
2. Qualitative interviews with staff (physicians, interprofessional healthcare providers), community providers, and patients and families (working with Patient Client Family Council) incorporating experience-based co-design
3. Content and thematic analysis of qualitative data, triangulation with quantitative data
4. Synthesis and communication using QI tools such as Ishikawa (‘fishbone’) diagrams and process maps

**Significance:**
This project promotes evidence-based mental health practice and creates new knowledge about mental health quality standard implementation in ‘real world’ settings (‘practice-based evidence’). The student’s report on the initiative will be shared with hospital leaders and regional partners to inform QI initiatives. Our institutional and research partnerships provincially and nationally will support dissemination and knowledge translation opportunities.

**Student Role:**
The student will play a key role in: a) leading qualitative data collection and analysis of healthcare provider perspectives; b) observing qualitative data collection and co-leading analysis for patient experience with PCFC members experienced in patient-oriented research; c) visualizing and communicating the data using QI tools; d) contributing to recommendations and presenting findings to stakeholders, and; e) leading a peer-reviewed poster presentation and co-authoring a manuscript.