

# Lanark County Hoarding Coalition Supplementary Report

February 16, 2021

In 2018, Lanark County Mental Health applied to the Ontario Trillium Fund with the goal to confront the issue of hoarding in Lanark County. We have succeeded; we now have an established suite of treatment services for individuals with moderate to severe hoarding, as well as increased awareness of hoarding and its impact in the community. Perhaps our most important accomplishment is the engagement of our Lanark County Hoarding Coalition partners. Our goal was to ensure hoarding treatment was sustainable through the Coalition after the funding was complete. This report will demonstrate this success.

Prior to receiving the funding, Lanark County Mental Health chaired a 24 member Hoarding Coalition, including members with interest in the issue, but lacking in skills in intervening in hoarding cases. At this time, the Hoarding Coalition has grown to more than 40 members, and is continuing to grow. Lanark County now has a multi-agency response to hoarding, where, guided by Lanark County Mental Health's expertise, any agency can begin to coordinate services to facilitate hoarding treatment.

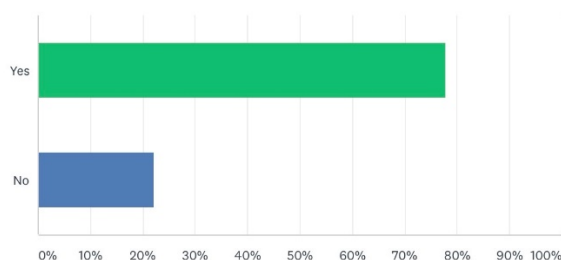
In the Fall 2020, Lanark County Mental Health surveyed Coalition members to determine their level of understanding and comfort with hoarding disorder and it's treatment. The results are as follows.

When asked about their commitment to attend Coalition meetings, 72% said that they attend meetings always or most of the time. 44% of members attended Lanark County Mental Health's Hoarding Education Day in April 2019.

When asked to recall their knowledge about hoarding prior to joining the Coalition, almost 80% of members identified feeling more confident about their knowledge of hoarding because of their participation in the Coalition. Almost 70% identified now feeling confident about completing a hoarding assessment and being able to distinguish it from other mental health or social challenges. It is clear that because of their participation in the Hoarding Coalition, most members have gained significant knowledge about hoarding, coupled with an ability to identify hoarding disorder.

If you can recall prior to joining the Coalition, do you feel more confident currently about your knowledge of hoarding disorder?

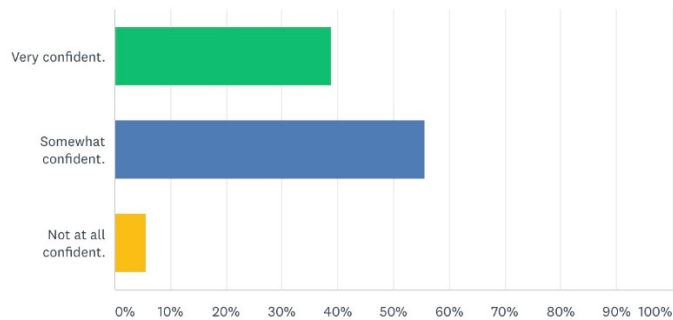
Answered: 18 Skipped: 0



An overwhelming 90% of Coalition members identified feeling somewhat to very confident engaging a potential client in a conversation about hoarding. They identified that this was a marked change from prior to their involvement in the Coalition, when a lack of language and knowledge contributed to a hesitancy to discuss the issue with potential clients.

How confident do you feel about engaging someone who hoards, in a conversation about the disorder?

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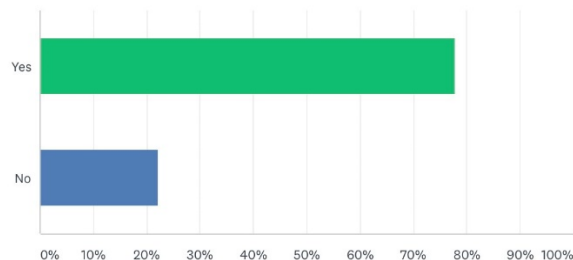


Although about 35% of Coalition members said that they would first call Lanark County Mental Health if they encountered a hoarding situation, 65% said that they would feel comfortable beginning some treatment, without the assistance of LCMH.

We are also pleasantly surprised by the Coalition's reach into the broader community. 78% of Coalition members indicated that they share their knowledge about hoarding with colleagues in their respective agencies and partner agencies. Even community members who do not belong to the Coalition are becoming aware of the complexity of hoarding and the services available. Lanark County social service agencies, family members and the community at large, all have an increased knowledge of hoarding and its impact and are able to respond more effectively and efficiently to individuals who hoard.

If you feel you have some knowledge of hoarding disorder, do you share your knowledge with your colleagues?

Answered: 18 Skipped: 0



Lanark County Mental Health's goal was to completely realign our system response to hoarding in Lanark County. Prior to the Ontario Trillium Funding, the community had little to offer these clients. Clients had no follow up, no group programs, no peer support. Social service agencies did not have the skills or the resources to respond. Now the Lanark County Hoarding Coalition is strong, and is fully equipped to continue to provide all aspects of this program, maintaining the quality of services that these clients have been receiving these past 3 years. The interest and knowledge built over the past 3 years is spreading throughout Lanark County. Our vision of a community that is able to identify and intervene in hoarding situations has been achieved.