

Downtown East Toronto Ontario Health Team Community Advisory Council Members Bio



Dean Valentine – Co-Chair

My personal journey with navigation through the healthcare system, both for chronic illness and mental health conditions and the opportunity to share my experiences, both challenges and successes, is my motivation to participate with the DET OHT CAC.

I have been doing Community Engagement activities for some time and had the opportunity to participate with multiple advisory councils. I am excited to use these experiences to contribute to this council, ensuring our community voices influence the development of the DET OHT.

I am a nature enthusiast, enjoy hiking, and when the opportunity arises love traveling and exploring the world.



Sophia Morgage- Co-Chair

I am a graduate of the George Brown College Social Service Worker Program. I am currently doing my undergraduate at York University in Sociology. I am a community partner with lived experience with mental health and homelessness. I am originally from the Caribbean and want to break down the stigma of afro-Canadians living with mental health and homelessness. I want to end the stigma and be a visible advocate for a marginalized community.

I am involved with the community engagement group and when the opportunity came up to join the Community Advisory Council, I was excited to be a part of a well needed patient and caregiver grassroots change.

I enjoy films, books, and performance art.

Ben Ward-Member

I was motivated to join the DET OHT CAC because of my passion to seamlessly meet the needs of clients I work with. I am a frontline, Harm Reduction and Personal Support Worker in Toronto. My second language is American Sign Language (A.S.L)

I am most excited to contribute a voice for the folks I serve. I do outreach for and with folks who have lived experience with poverty, homelessness, mental health and substance use challenges.

I love critical thinking. You may find me in multiple community settings facilitating trainings, at drop-ins, or making harm reduction kits.



Leslie Fauvelle-Member

I was motivated to join the Advisory Council because I was raised in one of the communities and have received a great deal of support and found this was a wonderful way to say thank you and give back.

I am excited to be able to give feedback and use my lived experience to inspire others.

I am a George Brown College Community Worker graduate, a former advocate in a Community Food Center and currently involved in an online course at George Brown studying Life Skills Coaching. I love to cook, listen to music, make greeting cards, and I am continually working on my personal development, professionally and personally.



Madina Rod- Member

I am a refugee immigrant from Kabul, Afghanistan that calls beautiful Canada home. The concept of having a family doctor or a regular check up at a clinic was foreign. But navigating the healthcare system in my new home was even more daunting than everything else.

I believe in giving back to the community since we are the community. Therefore, when the opportunity of being part of the DET OHT was presented to me, I thought I can represent those that cannot speak the language and are newcomers to Canada.



MaryAnne McMullen- Member

My motivation to join the DET OHT is to be part of something bigger than myself. I have been studying sociology/psychology and I am the founder of Our Heart Beats Together www.ohbtproject.org. As a seasoned project manager with experience with the provincial government and major banks in Canada, my interest in community was heightened during the COVID-19 pandemic and I wanted to explore something with more purpose. I would like to use my lived experience to bring change to our healthcare system and also be a powerhouse advocate for the voiceless. I am also a member of the Toronto Police Community Liaison Committee and I have a real interest in ensuring the health and safety for our community is aligned to Ontario Health standards for the vulnerable.

I have a real passion for music, Dj-ing, producing, radio and doing public relations for multiple creative projects across the globe. I have been a panelist for the Hip Hop Awards, Country Music Awards, Much Music Awards, Junos, and Def Jam Conference through The Next Music Generation.



Yoa Belauste-Member

I am generally a happy person. I try to face and overcome obstacles as presented. I am approachable, easy to talk to and a good listener. I welcome challenges, can work independently and as a group. I am a critical thinker, analytical, creative and an artistic person.

I see life's random, sometimes harsh pathways as a way to build up resilience, and that the good thing about being in a place when one's touching bottom is that the only way left to go is up. So, why give up? I believe in adaptability for survival and like to put a smile on people's faces who are having a grey day. I love when I can say or do something that can benefit someone in need. We are all connected.