

PEI Service Areas

MHSA established seven PEI service areas under which all PEI programs must fall. The services areas address different aspects of prevention and early intervention as follows:

1. **Access and Linkage to Treatment:** Activities to connect children, adults and seniors to medically necessary care and treatment as early in the onset of serious mental illness as practicable.
2. **Early Intervention:** Treatment and interventions, including relapse prevention, to address and promote recovery and related functional outcomes for a mental illness early in its emergence with a goal to lessen the severity and duration of mental illness.
3. **Improve Timely Access to Services for Underserved Populations:** Track and evaluate access to and referrals for services specific to populations identified as underserved.
4. **Outreach for Increasing Recognition of Early Signs of Mental Illness:** Activities or strategies to engage, encourage, educate, and/or train potential responders about ways to recognize and respond effectively to early signs of potentially severe and disabling mental illness.
5. **Prevention:** Reduce risk for developing a potentially SMI and build protective factors. Activities can include universal prevention strategies geared towards populations who may be more at risk of developing SMI.
6. **Stigma and Discrimination Reduction:** Direct activities to reduce negative feelings, attitudes, beliefs, perceptions, stereotypes and/or discrimination related to being diagnosed with a mental illness, having a mental illness, or to seeking mental health services, which can include training and education, campaigns, and web-based resources.
7. **Suicide Prevention:** Organized activities that prevent suicide as a consequence of mental illness, which can include trainings and education, campaigns, suicide prevention networks, capacity building programs, culturally specific approaches, survivor-informed models, screening programs, suicide prevention hotlines, or web-based suicide prevention resources.