

**Title:**

The Comparative Effect and Expense of More and Less Integration of Services that Provide Treatment and Rehabilitation for Children with Multiple Disabilities: A Randomized Controlled Trial

**Principal Investigator:**

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**Research Team:**

Sandy Thurston (Director of Research) and Robert Morton (CEO) - Children's Treatment Network of Simcoe-York; Gina Browne, Jackie Roberts, Amiram Gafni, Lehana Thabane - McMaster University; Peter Rosenbaum - *CanChild* (Collaborator).

**Community Partners:**

Behaviour Management Services of Simcoe York, Blue Hills Child and Family Services, Brain Injury Services Simcoe, Catulpa Community Support Services, Children's Aid Society of Simcoe County, Comcare Health, Community Care Access Centre of York Region, Community Care Access Centre of Simcoe County, Community Living Huronia, COTA Health, Kerry's Place Autism Services, Kinark Child and Family Services, Markham Stouffville Hospital, Muki Baum Autism Services, New Path Youth and Family Services, Ontario Early Years Centres in York Region, Orillia Soldiers' Memorial Hospital, Professional Rehabilitation Outreach, Regional Municipality of York, Royal Victoria Hospital, Simcoe Community Services, Simcoe County District School Board, Southlake Regional Health Centre, York Catholic District School Board, The Speech Clinic, York Region Branch of Jewish Family & Child Services, York Region Children's Aid Society, York Region District School Board, York Support Services Network and 1-1 Rehabilitation. All these agencies are part of the new Children's Treatment Network which will also work closely with organizations like Sick Children's Hospital and Bloorview McMillan Rehabilitation Hospital to better coordinate requirements for specialized outpatient services and care.

**Funding Source:**

Funding decisions pending.

**Project Timeline:**

2006 - 2009

**Abstract:**

The SLRU was approached by the new Children's Treatment Network of Simcoe York to assist them in the evaluation of this new model to determine the effectiveness of a unique integrated network to serve children and youth aged 0-19 years with multiple disabilities in a diverse under-served region of Ontario. The year was spent in the research and development of a proposal that is being submitted for funding. An evaluation infrastructure is also being developed for full community participation.

The purpose of the evaluation is to compare the effectiveness and efficiency of more and less integration of services for the treatment and rehabilitation of children with multiple disabilities and their families in Simcoe York. Anticipating a phased implementation plan and more children in the Simcoe York area with disabilities on service waiting lists than we can initially enroll in the network, we propose the most rigorous of Economic Evaluations – a randomized trial of the comparative effects and expense of the current self-directed use of a less integrated system of Children's Treatment services compared with the use of the current less integrated system augmented with proactive, navigated, coordinated, and comprehensive child and family system access to assessment and treatment services. Agency services available for use, as appropriate, are the same for each arm of the trial. The question to be explored is the cost-benefit of the added resources for integration and coordination.