

# Making the Connection Work

## Identification and Support for Older Adults with Mental Health and/or Substance Use Problems

The aim of this one-day community-based training event is to improve the knowledge, comfort and skill of service providers who work with older adults who may have problems with mental health and/or substance use. A secondary objective is to improve overall community capacity to respond by “making the connection” at a local level between addiction service providers, mental health professionals and other older adult care providers.

### Target Audience

Health and social service professionals across Ontario providing services to older adults in the community and long term care *and* addiction and mental health providers.

### Learning Objectives:

- To increase the knowledge, skills and understanding required in the identification, screening and support for older adults who may have substance use and/or mental health problems
- To increase awareness of the addiction and mental health treatment systems
- To provide an opportunity to make community linkages and begin planning for capacity building.

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Developed by the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH) Healthy Aging Project in partnership with the PIECES Consult Group and other community partners.

If you are interested in hosting this training in your community, contact:

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### Who are the trainers?

In this training a P.I.E.C.E.S. trainer teams up with an older adult addiction specialist. The training team consists of an addiction provider with special expertise in serving older adults and the local Psychogeriatric Resource Consultant or Psychogeriatric Education Coordinator trained in P.I.E.C.E.S.

### What is P.I.E.C.E.S.?

The P.I.E.C.E.S. training initiative is a comprehensive, system-wide approach to education on the core competencies and best practices for dementia and mental health care. P.I.E.C.E.S. training has been implemented across Ontario since 1997 in long term care, community care, acute care and emergency departments, and with family physicians. The P.I.E.C.E.S. learning and development strategy integrates other educational programs and therefore provides an ideal framework for incorporating substance use knowledge in this collaborative training effort.

