Surrey Place

Submitted by Dr. Anupam Thakur, Psychiatrist-in-Chief

Surrey Place offers interdisciplinary assessment, diagnostic and treatment services to children and adults with Intellectual disability (ID), Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and other developmental disabilities residing in the city of Toronto. Surrey Place (SP) is also the Developmental Services Ontario (DSO) access point for the Toronto Region. In addition, SP staff provides extensive education and consultation services to community agencies and Northern Ontario.

This year saw the launch of “ABILITY Program” in collaboration with SickKids, a consultation model to support children and youth diagnosed with ASD and/or ID with complex behavioural and medical needs. The Ministry of Health allocated an Alternate Payment Plan to SP for 11.5 FTE of ID physicians, for $2,012,500 this year; to increase our Psychiatry FTE from the current of 0.7 FTE to 4.0 FTE.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, SP has seen a rapid shift to virtual clinics in the past year. In addition to clinical care, we delivered our educational and teaching programs virtually to U of T undergraduate medicine. This includes “Health in the Community” program (virtual community visits for over 250 1st year medical students), PEDD (a 7-week elective seminar series for 45 1st and 2nd year medical and nursing students) and a half day TTR seminar for all 4th year medical students. Our capacity building efforts included working in partnership with CAMH and support the delivery of ECHO program for adults with IDD provincially and later across Canada.