

The Research Nook



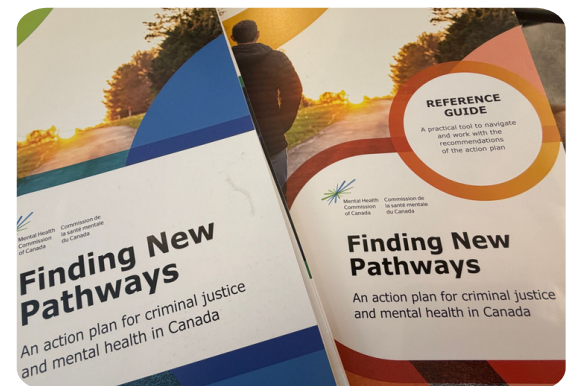
National Action Plan Launch

The MHCC releases *Finding New Pathways*

On June 6, 2026, the Mental Health Commission of Canada (MHCC) launched *Finding New Pathways: An action plan for criminal justice and mental health in Canada*. Focusing on the high mental health needs of people in the criminal justice system, where approximately 75% of federally incarcerated individuals experience mental health challenges, the action plan offers a practical roadmap for transformation by prioritizing prevention, diversion, end-to-end supports, equity considerations, and continuity of care.

Developed through a five-year process of collaboration, research, and knowledge exchange with individuals and organizations across the justice and forensic mental health sectors, the action plan is evidence-based, shaped by people with subject matter and lived expertise, and aligned with the needs of justice-involved individuals and justice system workers.

[Dr. Christopher Canning](#) led this project through the Waypoint Research Institute and presented at the official launch event, alongside members of the MHCC team. Congratulations to Dr. Canning and the WRI team who supported this project, including [Justine Chouinard](#), [Dr. Elnaz Moghimi](#) and [Dr. N. Zoe Hilton](#).



Explore the Action Plan

Click here to access the [Action Plan](#) and the accompanying [Reference Guide](#).

What's New at the WRI

Successful SSHRC Grant

Congratulations to [Dr. Elnaz Moghimi](#), [Dr. N. Zoe Hilton](#), [Elke Ham](#) and [Sevil Deljavan](#) on their successful SSHRC Partnership Engage Grant. In partnership with [Brave Beginnings](#), this one-year project will support a new survivor-led research partnership, strengthening peer mentorship training for survivors of intimate partner violence (IPV) by clarifying mentor roles, boundaries, referral pathways, and service navigation competencies. Through a province-wide survey, focus groups, and collaboration with Lived Experience Advisors, the project will translate community and survivor-informed evidence into practical training tools, frameworks, and referral guidance materials.

WRI Student Leads the Way with AI

Congratulations to [Valentina Tamayo Velasquez](#), a PhD candidate at the University of Toronto, who was awarded a CIHR grant in support of her doctoral research this spring.

Valentina was also invited to present at the [T-CAIREM 2026 Trainee Rounds](#), highlighting innovative and outstanding research at the intersection of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and health across Canada. Valentina will present on her work with Waypoint entitled, *"Bringing AI to Psychiatry: Developing and implementing an AI prediction and alerting tool for psychiatric adverse events"* on Wednesday, July 29th from 12-1pm. [Click here](#) to register and learn more!



Exploring AI & Psychiatry

[Click here](#) to learn more about Valentina's work with the WRI.

Dr. Waddell Appointed Vice Chair

Congratulations to [Dr. Andrea Waddell](#) on her appointment as Vice Chair, Clinical and Quality in the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Toronto. In her new role as Vice Chair, Clinical and Quality, Dr. Waddell will help advance academic excellence, clinical scholarship and the dissemination of best practices in psychiatry, with a focus on strengthening quality improvement and learning health systems.

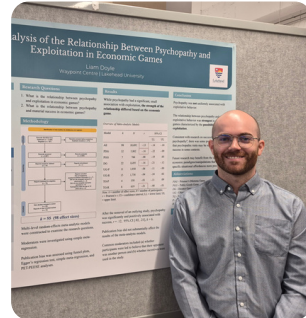
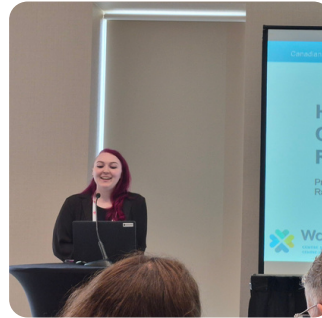
Conferences & Events

Recent Presentations

CPA Conference

We had several presentations from WRI staff and students at the 2026 Canadian Psychological Association Convention from June 4-6 in Montreal, including:

- Research student Lena Grajewski gave a presentation on their scoping review of the varied ways that coercive control is defined in research studies
- Post-doctoral student [Liam Doyle](#) presented a poster on his meta-analysis of research using economic games to study aspects of psychopathy
- Presentations from the [Mhaven](#) team on their clinician and lived experience training programs and the importance of administrative support when implementing large-scale initiatives



CPA 2026

IAFMHS 2026

[Dr. Christopher Canning](#) presented on *Finding New Pathways* at the International Association of Forensic Mental Health Services conference in Helsinki, Finland on June 18, 2026,



IAFMHS 2026

Global Leadership Exchange

[Dr. Barna Konkoly Thege](#), [Dr. Christopher Canning](#), and [Dr. Becky Van Iersel](#) participated in the Global Leadership Exchange event hosted by Waypoint and the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health in Toronto on June 1st & 2nd, 2026

Waypoint Talks

Click here to watch our June 24th Waypoint Talks session, [Substance Use Disorder in Forensic Hospitals](#), hosted by MITACS student [Dane Mauer-Vakil](#).



Global Leadership Exchange 2026

Recent Publications

Barbaree, H., Perlman, C., **Ham, E.**, Brown, G., Lightfoot, L., & Hirdes, J. (2026). **Assessing quality in inpatient psychiatry using outcome scales from the interRAI-Mental Health.** *Journal of Hospital Administration*. 15(1), 51–60. <https://doi.org/10.63564/jha.v15n1p51>

Kim, S., & Moghimi, E. (2026). **Pilot Evaluation of the Preventive Online Mental Health Program for Youth: Mixed-Methods Study.** *Psychiatric Services*. <https://doi.org/10.1176/appi.ps.20250719>

Houlding, C., Barnett, B.M., Colton, S., Houlding, E., Schmidt, F., & **Konkoly Thege, B.** (2026). **Ethics and action pathways for psychologists in a time of climate crisis.** *Frontiers in Psychology*, 17. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fpsyg.2026.1770041>

Canning, C. & Procknow, G. (2026). **Optimism, ambivalence, and opportunities: staff perspectives signaling a critical turn in patient-oriented research in forensic mental health care settings.** *Frontiers in Psychiatry*, 17. [doi: 10.3389/fpsyg.2026.1810931](https://doi.org/10.3389/fpsyg.2026.1810931)

Kim, S., MacQuarrie, E., Oh, S., Do, R., **Ham, E.**, Hilton, N. Z., & Fung, K. P. (2026). **Social Determinants and Trends in Involuntary Psychiatric Detentions: A Decade of Population-Based Data.** *Psychiatric Services*. <https://doi.org/10.1176/appi.ps.20250408>

Ham, E., Rodrigues, N. C., Melvin, A., **Canning, C.**, Zhao, J., **Allen, K.**, & **Hilton, N. Z.** (2026). **Strategies to address burnout and trauma among psychiatric workers: Co-developing recommendations and examining implementation priorities.** *Psychological Services*. <https://doi.org/10.1037/ser0001054>

WRI In the News



Mhaven: Building relationship health through mental health

May 12, 2026. This article is available on the [Waypoint website](#).



Dr. Andrea Waddell Appointed Vice Chair at University of Toronto Psychiatry

June 9, 2026. This article is available on the [Waypoint website](#).



Waypoint
CENTRE for MENTAL HEALTH CARE
CENTRE de SOINS de SANTÉ MENTALE

Waypoint Supports New National Action Plan for Criminal Justice and Mental Health in Canada

July 2, 2026. This article is available on the [Waypoint website](#).

Stay tuned for updates

Keep an eye out for updates in our next issue on:

- **WRI Opportunities:** Check out our [Careers Page](#), as we are continually offering exciting employment opportunities within the department
- **The PCFC Corner:** New updates from the Patient/Client and Family Council on patient-oriented research at Waypoint



WRI Impact Report

We are pleased to share the [Waypoint Research Institute's 2025/2026 Impact Report](#). This past year has been one of meaningful growth and momentum, from securing \$2.9 million in competitive funding and expanding our team, to launching our first clinical trial and strengthening partnerships across sectors. Most importantly, this work continues to be shaped by the voices and experiences of those we serve.

We encourage you to view the full report and explore the stories behind this work. This report reflects not just what we have accomplished, but how we are advancing research that is collaborative, person-centered, and grounded in real-world impact.



Explore our Impact

[Click here](#) to read our 2025/2026 Impact Report.

Your Voice Matters!

We want your input. What stories or updates would you like us to profile in our next edition? If you have any suggestions or would like to contribute to writing for our newsletter, please email us at waypointresearchinstitute@waypointcentre.ca

Waypoint Research Institute
Waypoint Centre for Mental Health Care
1st Floor, Bayfield Building
705-549-3181 Ext. 2142