

Harm reduction at LHSC: The importance of lived experience in connecting with patients

00:00:00:000 - 00:00:04:671

Sue Macintosh, Harm Reduction Worker with RHAC, and Harm Reduction Specialist on the AMCS team at LHSC

I'm part of the team of the Addiction Medicine Consult Service.

00:00:04:671 - 00:00:09:576

Sue Macintosh, Harm Reduction Worker with RHAC, and Harm Reduction Specialist on the AMCS team at LHSC

We are a harm reduction team. We have two of the best,

00:00:09:576 - 00:00:13:513

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the best addiction doctors that anyone could ever have.

00:00:13:513 - 00:00:20:253

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We have two navigators, harm reduction navigators. And then there's me. I started using at a very young age.

00:00:20:253 - 00:00:22:922

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And it was a very painful experience.

00:00:22:922 - 00:00:27:394

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I finally, I did stop using and it was day

00:00:27:394 - 00:00:31:865

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by day, that's why I'm 15 years substance free today.

00:00:31:865 - 00:00:38:805

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I thought I could really relate with these people because the hospital can be a very isolating place as well.

00:00:38:805 - 00:00:43:877

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They're in here with maybe addiction related injuries

00:00:43:877 - 00:00:48:014

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or they're here because of excess substance use or whatever.

00:00:48:014 - 00:00:52:619

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And I go visit them and they feel more comfortable

00:00:52:619 - 00:00:57:590

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talking to me than to a doctor. And they talk to me and tell me stuff.

00:00:57:590 - 00:01:02:762

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Depending on what it is, if it's medical, I will bring it back to doctors.

00:01:02:762 - 00:01:07:200

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I'm really proud that Victoria Hospital actually opened that up.

00:01:07:200 - 00:01:14:374

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It is more compassionate right now towards people who substances. We don't turn our back on them.

00:01:14:374 - 00:01:17:677

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We meet people where they are, but we don't leave them there.