

# Specialized Clinical DS Network

## Clinical Innovations for Inclusion

March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2026  
Caesar's Windsor

Time	Session Information
9:00 – 9:15 a.m.	<b>Opening Remarks</b>
9:15 – 10:30 a.m.	<b>Harm Reduction As Specialized Care: Building Inclusion Through Compassion and Choice</b>  <i>Presenters: Sarah Revie, Amy Steele</i>  As service providers, we are being called to reimagine what “specialized care” means. Historically, supports for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) have been rooted in protection, risk management, and abstinence-based approaches. Yet these frameworks often leave out those whose realities do not fit within traditional systems — particularly adults with IDD who use drugs or alcohol. Harm reduction offers a path forward. It shifts the focus from control to collaboration, from compliance to connection. This presentation will explore harm reduction not only as a public health strategy, but as an ethical foundation for specialized care — one that centers dignity, autonomy, and inclusion. Drawing from the work of Surrey Place’s Safer Steps, My Way program, we will highlight emerging practices that bridge developmental, and substance-use supports through accessible education, flexible service design, and lived-experience collaboration. Participants will gain practical insight into how harm-reduction principles — such as meeting people where they are, supporting informed choice, and building safety through trust — can transform traditional models of care into spaces of belonging. By embedding harm reduction into specialized services, we move closer to a future where inclusion is not just a goal, but a practice
10:30 – 10:45 a.m.	<b>Break</b>
10:45 – 12:00 p.m.	<b>Innovative Capacity Building to Support Persons with Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities in the Criminal Justice System: Skill Building and Education</b>

	<p><i>Presenters: Marnie Lye, Mary Donaldson</i></p> <p>Transitioning persons with a dual diagnosis into the community requires a multi-disciplinary inclusive care team approach. The Community Networks of Specialized Care – Central East (CNSC–CE) hosted by CLH Developmental Support Services (CLH DSS) launched a skills-based education series for health/forensic service system professionals who support individuals with developmental disabilities and dual diagnoses. Subject Matter Experts were hired across the province to develop the 6-part curriculum. This virtual provincial education provides a variety of topics for professionals supporting persons with a dual diagnosis transitioning into the community. The goal of the education series is to build clinical professional capacity in the workforce across the sectors to support persons with dual diagnosis. The sixth module in the series, inline with the justice theme, focuses on supporting individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD) in the Canadian Criminal Justice System (CJS) and provides an innovative virtual approach to support inclusive skill building for professionals. This session will focus on the justice module and highlight: the intersection of IDD in the CJS; best practices for supporting someone in the CJS; and resources developed to build capacity to support someone with IDD in the justice system.</p>
12:00 – 1:00 p.m.	<b>Lunch</b> ( <i>Buffet lunch is provided</i> )
1:00 – 2:15 p.m.	<p><b>From Silos to System Connection: Navigating Inter-Sectoral Partnerships for Inclusive Support for Justice-Involved Individuals with IDD</b></p> <p><i>Presenters: Samantha Tullo</i></p> <p>Individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) who become involved with the justice system often face a complex web of services across health, justice and developmental sector, each with distinct mandates and priorities. From Silos to System Connection explores how intentional collaboration can transform these fragmented systems into cohesive, inclusive networks of support.</p>
2:15 – 2:30 p.m.	<b>Break</b>
2:30 – 3:45 p.m.	<p><b>Specialized accommodations to support persons with a complex behaviours: Tour of a virtual home</b></p> <p><i>Presenters: Darren Rene</i></p>

	<p>For over 50 years, KW Habilitation has been a leading developmental services provider in Waterloo Region. In 2018 KW Habilitation launched an extension of our inclusive living supports that focuses on persons with highly complex behaviours. Our success, to date with these supports has been rooted in access to specially trained staff, clinical supports and specialized support environments.</p>
3:45 – 4:00 p.m.	<b>Wrap up</b>