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Deputy Minister of Health and Wellness

Best Brain Exchange

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World Trade and Convention Center

Good morning everyone and welcome to our Best Brain Exchange regarding a ***Governance Model to Support an Integrated System of Care for Mental Health and Addictions Services.***

Today's meeting will play an important role in the development of a Mental Health Strategy for Nova Scotia.

We began working on this strategy in fall 2010 with our Mental Health Strategy Advisory Committee.

Since then, the committee has been working hard -- with the support of the Nova Scotia Health Research Foundation -- to describe the current mental health and addiction services offered in the province. The committee has been looking at how these services can better support Nova Scotians.

Our discussions here will be very useful as we work towards the development of a Mental Health Strategy.

We will look at various governance models and the role they play in supporting systems-level integration of mental health and addictions services.

We will look at how these models can support efforts to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of services in Nova Scotia.

Some of the nation's leading experts on this topic are in the room today. You have the chance to listen to what they have to say and ask them questions. Get involved in the discussions and to listen to what others have to offer at your tables and in the room.

As you know, this Government considers the work you are doing on the Mental Health Strategy a key priority. Government's *Better Care Sooner* plan outlines several objectives that we need to address – for instance “providing people with mental illness emergency care better suited to their needs.”

Your discussion today lay the groundwork for developing solutions that will provide Better Care Sooner for people who need mental health services.

I look forward to hearing what you have to say.