



Dear HAMSMaRT and Keeping Six Supporters,

Happy Spring! As we see the temperature rise and greenery start to grow back, signs of life and nature return to our city. With the new season, we have some new updates from the month we would like to share with you!

This newsletter will feature as usual, two new staff members, one from HAMSMaRT and one from K6, as well as the usual point of care testing dates. We would also like to recognize the work and efforts of several McMaster Social Work Students who have assisted us to strengthen our public-facing communications as well as introduce a new program and community resource!

As always, check in on your neighbours, friends, and family. We hope the spring showers bring sustenance and growth for you and your loved ones!

In solidarity,  
HAMSMaRT & K6

### **May Point Of Care Testing Dates**

Next month the Shelter Health Hep C Team will be onsite to test for Hep C, Syphilis, and HIV on:

- Tuesday May 5, 1-3pm**
- Thursday May 21, 1-3pm**



### **Our Website has been Updated!**

Over the last three months we here at HAMSMaRT/K6 have been working with a group of Social Work Students from McMaster University as they completed their community placement with our team. Their assignment was to learn about a community organization and contribute to it in a meaningful way - and they excelled! For quite a while now we have been hoping to update our website as well as bring HAMSMaRT into the 21st century with a social media page. As you saw in our [last newsletter](#), they have created us an [Instagram account](#) and worked to connect with different community organizations through social media and highlight our team. In addition to this, they have redone our website! The website now reflects the work that we do, the services we provide, our team, and our clients. It also includes testimonials from clients and staff members, a page to see our past newsletters and annual reports, and any job opportunities we have. Please check out their hard work by clicking the button below or going to [hamsmart.ca](http://hamsmart.ca)!



# The Hamilton Social Medicine Response Team

The Hamilton Social Medicine Response Team is a group of healthcare providers who believe that health is political and aspire to remove barriers to clinical care by addressing the social determinants of health.



The website and Instagram was designed and created by McMaster SSW students: **Taylor, Abby, Areem, Aya, Mala, Lisa, Madison, and Mara**. Thank you all for your work. You are wonderful!

## Post-Care Outreach and Coordination Team

In collaboration with Hamilton Paramedic Services, Positive Health Network, and Hamilton Public Health, HAMSMaRT is participating in a new program! This program **strengthens Hamilton's drug poisoning response** through individual client-led outreach support and service coordination.

**The outreach team** (Monday-Sunday 11am-7pm, Wednesday 12pm-5pm) will be comprised of Harm Reduction Workers and Peer Support Workers who travel within community to visit individuals who have recently experienced a drug poisoning. They will provide post-overdose support, harm reduction supplies, harm reduction education, referrals and service connection, and peer support. **This is the team that HAMSMaRT will be supporting!**

**The service coordination team** (Monday-Friday 8:30am-4:30pm) will support healthcare partners, community organizations, and the outreach team by providing a direct link to health and social services for underhoused individuals who use drugs in Hamilton. They will be supporting service navigation across the city and work to strengthen continuity of care following urgent events, such as a drug poisoning.



You can now **request outreach support** when an individual:

- has recently experienced a drug poisoning
- has declined transport after EMS response
- has visited or is leaving hospital following a drug poisoning

You can also **request service coordination** when:

- support is needed to connect a client to health or social services
- service navigation is complex or unclear
- coordination between multiple providers is required

### Contact Information

905-546-2467

hoc@hamilton.ca

### Staff Spotlight

Each month do a staff spotlight! We would like to recognize the folks in both HAMSMaRT and K6 that do hard work for our Hamilton community everyday. **We have asked them about why they joined HAMSMaRT/K6, what other work they do outside of here, and any hobbies they may have!** Every month you can find a new spotlight on a HAMSMaRT and K6 staff member or volunteer. We hope you enjoy getting to know the people behind the scenes here at our partnered organizations!

**K6 | Farrahn Maloney**



Farrahn has been with Keeping Six for five years! She started on outreach but is now a Harm Reduction Worker. As part of her job she gives out harm reduction supplies and educates people on safer use. She started with K6 as a way to financially support herself while building connections with people through shared lived experience.

Farrahn also works as a Co-Researcher on a McMaster project that investigates the access of sexual healthcare in women and gender-diverse Hamiltonians who are precariously housed. She also volunteers with the Substance Overdose Prevention and Education Network (SOPEN) doing outreach once a month.

In her spare time, Farrahn loves colouring pages, painting, and playing Monopoly Go! She would like everyone to know that she is working on recovery every single day to get back to the healthy Farrahn she used to be.

**HAMSMaRT | Matthew Lewis**

Matt has been working at HAMSMaRT since early 2024 as a part-time Safe Supply and Outreach RN. He has been working with clients who use drugs/are unhoused for many years as an Emergency Room RN at St. Joes's Hospital and wanted to get more involved in Harm Reduction and community and clinic nursing.

Matt also works as an RN at St. Joe's Substance Use Support program alongside peers and social workers to provide people who use drugs with additional support during their hospital stay. He is also a frequent participant in K6 Sunday outreach!

In his spare time, Matt is a runner, a biker, and enjoys spending time with his family! Matt enjoys being outside, being active, and playing sports. So much so that he often bikes to work! He even recently ran the Around the Bay race - which he runs every year!



## Donate Now!

We encourage you to donate to HAMSMaRT and make a difference in your community. Your donations will be used to purchase food, medical supplies, hygiene products and toiletries, and other outreach and clinic supplies. **You can donate by clicking the button below.** You can sign up for a **one time donation or a monthly donation**. All donations to HAMSMaRT are tax deductible and you can request a donation letter from us for large amounts. We look forward to working with you to provide those in need with the great healthcare and daily living essentials that we all deserve!

[Donate Here](#)

We would like to acknowledge and thank our current primary funders: the Hamilton Community Foundation, Ontario HIV Treatment Network, the Karen & Peter Turkstra Family Foundation, Incite Foundation for the Arts, the Canadian Mental Health Association, James A. Burton & Family Foundation, and The Hainsworth Trust. Thank you and we hope to continue to nurture our partnerships together!

Additionally, we would like to thank the everyday folks who donate \$5, \$10, or \$15 through our website as a one time donation or a monthly donation. We know that making ends meet can be hard and we appreciate you giving back to your community through us - in whatever way you can! However large or small, your continued donations have allowed us to keep supporting our clients and community members. It is because of you all that we are able to give people a safe place for their medical care and wrap-around needs. Thank you to all of our amazing donors!

### May Newsletter - What's Next?

On next month's newsletter you can expect from us:

- spotlight on a new staff member!!
- dates for June Hep C Testing - new month, new opportunities to test!
- meet two new staff members!

**The Hamilton Social Medicine Response Team** (HAMSMaRT) is a nonprofit organization of health providers and community organizers working to integrate clinical practice, critical analysis and political action. We work to advance the idea and practice that health is inherently political and health care providers must play a role in bringing about change in the social and material conditions which determine health.

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