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**THE FAMILY ASSOCIATION FOR MENTAL HEALTH EVERYWHERE
(FAME) APPLAUDS THE UNITED WAY OF PEEL**

“Mapping the Mental Health System in Peel Region: Challenges and Opportunities” is a significant step forward in addressing gaps in the mental health space in Peel Region.

TORONTO, Ontario – January 24, 2014 – The Family Association for Mental Health Everywhere (FAME) applauds the United Way of Peel in their undertaking and the subsequent release of “Mapping the Mental Health System in Peel Region: Challenges and Opportunities”.

It’s clear all participants share their vision, their insight and opportunities to improve the current mental health system and the priority areas where these changes are most needed in the Region of Peel.

One-in-five people in Canada will experience diagnosable mental health problems or illnesses in their lifetime; in Peel that represents a staggering 259,362 residents.

Those organizations who serve in the community of mental health would quickly acknowledge that while the fact of one-in-five is quite accurate, the fallout of those impacted by mental health far exceeds those numbers. In its six degrees of separation, mental health issues, touch almost every single person in the region.

Now more than ever is the time to be vigilant and aware of the challenges that the Region and many other regions throughout Ontario are facing in trying to address the systemic issues in coping with and managing mental health. The report addresses the need to take an interdisciplinary and collaborative approach in meeting the needs of those impacted by mental health issues and concerns.

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As an agency whose programs are supported by the Region of Peel, we would concur with the 25 recommendations that are outlined in the document. FAME remains hopeful that the Select Committee on Mental Health and Addictions for the Province of Ontario will take note of this valuable report, prompting a new phase of action.

The Family Association for Mental Health Everywhere is committed to working with the United Way of Peel, in partnership, to support families and caregivers who are so key in helping to keep Peel healthy and safe.

About the Family Association for Mental Health Everywhere

Since 1989, FAME has helped families and caregivers in the Greater Toronto Area and Peel care for themselves and their loved ones, even in the face of mental health challenges. FAME facilitates the development of resilience in families living with mental illness by providing support, education, coping skills and self-care strategies. FAME advocates for the family perspective on mental health issues in our community.

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