COMMITTED TO CHANGE: REPORT HIGHLIGHTS
MENTAL HEALTH ACT IN Voluntary ADMISSIONS

WHAT WE EXAMINED:
WERE LEGAL SAFEGUARDS FOLLOWED UPON ADMISSION?

2016/17
15,000 approx.
IN Voluntarily
ADMITTED & TREATED
PATIENTS IN BC FACILITIES
INCREASE IN LAST 10 YEARS

HOW PATIENT RIGHTS ARE PROTECTED
Facilities are required to complete a set of legal forms on admission that show:
- Detention criteria met
- Consent to treatment obtained
- Notification of rights given
- Relatives notified

DETENTION CRITERIA
- Mental disorder & require treatment
- Substantial deterioration or risk of harm to self or others
- Can’t be admitted voluntarily

WHAT WE FOUND
HIGH LEVELS OF NON-COMPLIANCE
No Consent for Treatment form on 24% of patient files
No Notification of Rights form on 51% of patient files

EXTRAORDINARY STATE POWER WITH LITTLE OVERSIGHT OR ACCOUNTABILITY

FACILITIES COMPLETED ALL 5 REQUIRED FORMS ONLY 28% OF THE TIME

WE RECOMMEND
1. Regular auditing, annual performance targets, improved records management, and increased public reporting
2. Provincial standards and guidance with mandatory training
3. Independent rights advice service

ALL 24 RECOMMENDATIONS ACCEPTED