**Pediatric and Adolescent SIG meeting – AMERSA 2021 Annual meeting**

**Wednesday October 3, 2021**

SIG leader: Nicholas Chadi, Adolescent and Addiction Medicine specialist, University of Montreal, director of substance use program, clinician-scientist with a focus on substance use and gender diversity.

**Agenda :**

1. **Introductions**
2. **Adaptations and lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic**
   1. Opportunity to set up tele-consultation, increased access for many youth/patients. Positive effects regarding reduced transportation time
   2. Harm reduction, co-occuring disorders at the forefront in the context of COVID-19
   3. Opportunity for expansion of OAT programs, preventive initiatives and training as well as linking with mental health services. Challenges with some youth being isolated.
   4. Many new barriers in the context of COVID, virtual care does provide opportunities, but not accessible to all
   5. Increased demand for mental health services, often combined with addiction medicine services, shows the many fractures in the mental health system
3. **Reaching and caring for vulnerable youth with substance use disorders during COVID-19**
   1. Interest for youth advisory committees, challenges in building these for different programs, could help with reach of programs into the different communities
      1. SMART research group : Can provide an opportunity for funding
      2. Project AMP, peer mentors can help support youth
   2. Advocacy can take many different forms, lay media, social media, this group can also help create meaningful connections among pediatric addiction medicine providers
   3. Reaching youth during inpatient care. Consultation services in the making in some centers
      1. Rapid referrals
      2. Liaison with adult liaison services

**Next steps :**

1. Next formal SIG meeting at AMERSA 2022 (hopefully in person)
2. Staying in touch with the group via email in the meantime
3. Can reach SIG leader at any time via email : [nicholas.chadi@umontreal.ca](mailto:nicholas.chadi@umontreal.ca)