

Approved Research Questions

PROPOSED DOMAIN	TARGET POPULATION	RESEARCH QUESTIONS
Independent living: Supports and barriers	Seniors	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What factors need to be in place and/or considered to support seniors to live independently? 2. What are the impacts (costs/benefits) of providing or not providing individualized and integrated services and supports (e.g., medicine, nursing, homecare, basic support for daily living) for clients and their caregivers, and should these be available to all clients or specific target groups only?
	Persons with disabilities	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How can best practice models supporting home and community life be expanded across systems? 2. What policy/system changes are needed to integrate funding models across the systems to support best practice models? 3. What skills, capacities, and attributes do service providers need to support individuals with disabilities that have a mental illness?
Employment	Seniors	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What are the mental/physical/economical consequences of alternate retirement practices (e.g., phased retirement) for seniors with mental health issues? 2. What are the benefits/incentives for employers to keeping seniors with mental illness employed? 3. What is the prevalence and profile of volunteerism and employment of seniors with mental health issues?
	Persons with disabilities	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What are new and innovative approaches to employment practices for people with disabilities that have mental health, and how do these compare – in terms of costs, benefits, and outcomes – to the traditional/current methods? 2. How can narrative accounts (e.g., stories of success, barriers, etc.) from clients, employers, mentors and colleagues, better inform and influence decisions regarding policy, funding, and practice?
Early identification and prevention: Protective and risk factors	Seniors	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What are the recommended screening and diagnostic instruments for mental illness and/or cognitive decline in seniors with mental health issues, and how can psychosocial factors (e.g., social networks, independent living, etc.) be incorporated in screening? 2. What are the most effective methods for enhancing mental health literacy in seniors with mental health issues, their caregivers, and persons involved in support roles?
	Persons with disabilities	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What screening tools are most effective for early identification or diagnosis of mental illness in adults with disabilities outside of specialized mental health services, and how might assessment tools be adapted to meet this need? 2. What is the prevalence and incidence of different combinations of mental illness and disabilities? 3. What factors contribute to and build resiliency to reduce the impact of mental illness in individuals with disabilities and mental health issues?
Polypharmacy: Risks associated with using	Seniors	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What methods would assist in increasing awareness of polypharmacy issues for seniors with mental health issues and their support providers, and are there special considerations necessary for the client with mental illness/cognitive decline?

several medications		<p>2. What are the main supports and barriers reported by seniors and other stakeholders (i.e., health professionals, caregivers) related to medication adherence?</p> <p>3. What tools and interventions are effective in identifying and reducing adverse medication outcomes in seniors (i.e., falls, motor vehicle accidents, cognitive decline/impact)?</p>
	Persons with disabilities	<p>1. What programs would assist in increasing awareness of polypharmacy issues for mentally ill clients and providers, and are special considerations necessary for the clients with disabilities?</p> <p>2. How do funding models influence prescription medication utilization (e.g., how do funding issues/features relate to inappropriate medication use; how do funding models prevent clients getting necessary or appropriate medications)?</p> <p>3. What factors influence physician prescribing practices for this target population, and how do we use this information to reduce adverse events?</p> <p>4. Are/can the needs of this population being met by current addictions programs, and are there best practices that ought to be applied?</p>
Strength-based approaches	Seniors	<p>1. What are the attitudes and beliefs (e.g., ageism; stigma against mental illness) that service providers and others hold that may impact the range of opportunities provided to seniors with mental health issues, and are there effective mechanisms for affecting positive change?</p> <p>2. How can we support seniors with mental health illness and their caregivers in accessing and using technological innovations that support the promotion of wellness (e.g., delivering care, increasing mental health literacy, education, accessing services online, promoting social networks, etc.)?</p>
	Persons with disabilities	<p>1. What do persons with disabilities and mental health issues need, in terms of services and supports, to achieve better individual- and system-level outcomes?</p> <p>2. Are there strength-based approaches that should be explored with this population in the Alberta context?</p> <p>3. How can we support persons with disabilities and mental health issues and their caregivers in accessing and using technological innovations that support the promotion of wellness (e.g., delivering care, increasing mental health literacy, education, accessing services online, promoting social networks, etc.)?</p>
System capability to respond to those with complex needs	Seniors	<p>1. What are there known best practices to supporting seniors with complex needs, (e.g., case management, planning methodologies, transitions to community, informal caregiver support, use of practitioners/navigators), and how should resources be structured to best implement them?</p> <p>2. How can existing services and programs be enhanced to maintain seniors with complex needs in their preferred living arrangements?</p>
	Persons with disabilities	<p>1. What are the supports needed to implement and sustain innovative and alternative models of care for persons with complex needs, including transitional support?</p> <p>2. What can be learned from a longitudinal study that follows people with complex needs through multiple points of contact and between systems that can be used to inform policy and practice?</p> <p>3. What are effective practices and strategies from other sectors that can be incorporated into planning for persons with disabilities and complex needs (testing, development, evaluation of capacity building)?</p>