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ALBERTA MENTAL HEALTH BOARD

... Advancing Mental Health

Mental Health Research Program Progress Update

February 2006

Mental Health Research Showcase

The Mental Health Research Showcase was a tremendous success, with 372 delegates travelling to Banff this past November to attend the inaugural event. Evaluation results were extremely positive with 94 per cent of respondents rating the conference as "excellent" and "worthwhile attending."

The Showcase featured 96 posters with 20 abstracts selected for oral presentations. One delegate commented, "I appreciated seeing the collaboration between institutions and provinces in the research abstracts. This was a phenomenal opportunity to gain information, network with colleagues and find information on current research projects."

Evaluations indicated that participants were thoroughly impressed with the high caliber of conference speakers and their presentations. The Honourable James Bartleman, Ontario's Lieutenant Governor, received the following praise for his keynote address: "A true champion with many examples and suggested interventions to make a difference."

Mr. Michael Milken, a financier and philanthropist, delivered a key note presentation which received this reaction: "Inspiring, thought provoking, exceptional. He operationalizes the power of intention; we need to bring that focus and passion to addressing mental illness!"

Dr. Ron Dyck and Dr. Doug Watson summarized areas of concern for mental health, presented potential solutions and identified populations and issues requiring special focus. The Minister of Health was very positive in her closing remarks and pleased with the efforts made to learn and exchange knowledge to advance mental health.

Mental Health Research Program

The Mental Health Research Showcase is one strategy originating from the Mental Health Research Program for Alberta. Several other elements of the program are progressing through a continued collaborative process. A Research Partnership Committee was convened in the fall and includes province-wide, senior level representatives who are providing advice and support in implementing the Mental Health Research Program for Alberta.

Committee members are currently involved in strategic planning and priority setting, developing a Business Plan, establishing sustainable funding for the research plan, and further designing the Alberta Centennial Mental Health Research Chair Program.

Showcase Presentations Now Available Online

All of the speaker presentations are available to download from the AMHB website at www.amhb.ab.ca

An information supplement reporting on the Showcase highlights and speaker presentations will be published in the February 20, 2006 issue of *Maclean's*. The full supplement will also be posted on the AMHB website.

2006 Showcase Planned

The inaugural Mental Health Research Showcase proved to be such a success that the AMHB is currently planning to host a second event in the fall of 2006. We will notify you once the dates have been confirmed.

Upcoming Events

Under the strategic direction of the Research Partnership Committee, a Round Table meeting focused on setting mental health research priorities is currently being planned. The meeting will be held in February and the results will be posted on the website for feedback.

We will continue to share progress updates to keep you informed. Thank you for your continued interest and support for these initiatives to advance mental health in Alberta.

For More Information

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