



AMHB

ALBERTA MENTAL HEALTH BOARD

... Advancing Mental Health

Mental Health Research Program Progress Update

January/February 2007

2007 AMHB Summer Employment Research Program Selection Underway

The 2007 Alberta Mental Health Board's Summer Employment Research Program (ASERP) selection process is now underway.

Regional Health Authorities, not-for-profit mental health organizations and Aboriginal community groups were invited to apply for a wage subsidy of \$7 per hour to employ university students to work on mental health research, evaluation, and quality improvement projects. ASERP will run for 10 to 16 weeks, with positions starting in late April or early May.

The number of funded positions has increased from 20 to 25 for the 2007 program. Two subsidized positions will be allocated per Regional Health Authority (for a total of 18), four to non-profit organizations, and three to Aboriginal community groups.

The Program objectives include building research capacity and providing students interested in mental health with experience in service settings.

Mental Health Technology Assessment Initiative Begins in March

The AMHB and the Institute of Health Economics have completed recruitment for a qualified candidate to train in Health Technology Assessment (HTA) for a six-month period.

This position is a pilot project created through a partnership between the two organizations to build capacity for applied HTA mental health research in Alberta.

A number of candidates from service settings and the academic sector applied for this opportunity and were interviewed in January 2007.

The successful applicant, Lisa Bergerman, starts in March. She will work on developing a research question of importance to the system, undertake a systematic literature review to determine the quality of existing research and best practices, compile the data into a summary report and disseminate findings to stakeholders.

The initiative will explore ways in which mental health systems and service delivery can be improved, and evidence better integrated into policy, decision-making, and practice.

The project will focus on one of the four priority areas detailed in the Mental Health Research Partnership Program for Alberta:

- Child and adolescent mental health
- Mental health in the workplace
- Mental illness and addictions
- Effectiveness of mental health services and system

Alberta Centennial Mental Health Research Chairs Program Recruiting

The Mental Health Chairs Recruitment Steering Committee continues to guide the Research Chair recruitment process. This committee, co-chaired by the AMHB and Alberta Advanced Education and Technology, includes representatives from health regions, various ministries and the universities of Alberta, Calgary and Lethbridge.

The committee released an advertisement in January 2007, seeking applications to fill three of the nine Mental Health Research Chair positions to be established within Alberta over the next five years.

Successful candidates for the Chairs program will be working in mental health services and population health research with expertise in one of the four mental health research priority theme areas.

Five key principles are guiding Chair recruitment:

- 1) **Coordination across Alberta**
- 2) **Ability to develop strong working relationships with health regions**
- 3) **Excellence**
- 4) **Focus on research priority areas**
- 5) **Focus on knowledge exchange**

Mark Your Calendars - Mental Health Research Showcase

The AMHB will host the 3rd annual Mental Health Research Showcase at the Rimrock Hotel, Banff, Alberta from November 25-28, 2007.

Planning is underway to develop the 2007 Showcase program. Watch for more details to be released soon.

For More Information

For information about mental health research program activities contact:

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