

**A M H B**

ALBERTA MENTAL HEALTH BOARD

... Advancing Mental Health

Mental Health Research Program Progress Update

June 2006

Mental Health Research Partnership Program: Business Plan

The Research Partnership Committee (RPC) and its Business Planning Sub-group have developed a three-year business plan for Alberta's Mental Health Research Partnership Program. The plan sets out the Research Program's priority research themes, goals, objectives, strategies, performance measures and budget. The objective is to secure funding to continue implementation of the Mental Health Research Partnership Program with the ultimate goal of advancing mental health for Albertans.

The Business Plan is being finalized and will be submitted to the Government of Alberta for consideration in the 2007/08 budget planning cycle. It will also be used in discussion with other potential funders.

AMHB Summer Employment Research Program (ASERP)

ASERP is AMHB's summer pilot program to increase capacity for mental health research and evidence-based decision-making in the health regions. ASERP is well underway. In the fall of 2006 the program will be evaluated, with participants and stakeholders asked to provide feedback on their experiences and the value of the program. For more general information about the program please visit the research section of the AMHB website at www.amhb.ab.ca

Mental Health Research Showcase 2006

Rimrock Resort Hotel in Banff, Alberta

Monday, October 30 to Wednesday, November 1

We are delighted to have as keynote speaker, Jane Pauley, the charismatic newswoman who spent more than a decade on the "Today" show and co hosted "Dateline NBC" for 11 seasons. Until recently, few people knew that behind her cheerful public persona, she was struggling privately with bipolar disorder. We are anticipating that Ms. Pauley's keynote address at the Showcase will help raise awareness for mental health and decrease the stigma of mental illness.

Advance Program: www.buksa.com/showcase/program.asp

Call for Innovations in Practice and Research in Mental Health Abstracts: www.buksa.com/showcase/abstracts.asp

Submission Deadline: August 1, 2006

Mental Health Research Training Opportunities Increase

There are more positions for mental health research trainees in Alberta thanks to a new partnership between the Alberta Mental Health Board (AMHB) and the Alberta Heritage Foundation for Medical Research (AHFMR).

As of April 1, 2006, the AMHB is contributing up to \$450,000 over a five-year term to AHFMR's Mental Health Traineeship Program to increase traineeship capacity in Alberta by 50 per cent or about 15 additional trainees. Emphasis for the additional funding will be placed on research projects that seek to improve the mental health of Albertans, increase the effectiveness of mental health services, and strengthen the mental health system.

The program will focus initially on supporting graduate studentships, research fellowships, and clinical research fellowships for trainees working with Alberta-based investigators. Traineeship applications will be accepted by AHFMR and reviewed by the AHFMR Peer Review Advisory Committee composed of independent investigators from Alberta or, for Clinical Fellows, from other regions of Canada.

The partnership supports the strategic directions of the AMHB-led Mental Health Research Partnership Program for Alberta. AHFMR is a member of the provincial Research Partnership Committee (RPC), which consists of senior level representatives from across Alberta who provide strategic direction in the implementation of the Mental Health Research Partnership Program. The ultimate outcome of program is to improve the mental health of all Albertans.

For More Information

For information about mental health research program activities contact:

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