

**A M H B**

ALBERTA MENTAL HEALTH BOARD

*... Advancing Mental Health*

# Mental Health Research Program Progress Update

May 2006

## Setting Mental Health Research Priorities

There has been a tremendous response to the call for comments on the report from the Priority Setting Roundtable that was held in February 2006. Comments have been collated and will be presented on the research section of the AMHB website. The priority themes reflect highly important areas for future research in our province and will be included in the developing Business Plan for Alberta's new Mental Health Research Program. In addition to substantial consultation with stakeholders in 2004-2005, over one hundred individuals provided input in 2006 to the latest stage of the priority setting process. Watch for more information about the Business Plan in the next *Progress Update*.

The priority themes that emerged from this discussion relate to child and youth mental health, the effectiveness of mental health services and the system, mental illness and addictions and other comorbidities, and mental health in the workplace and the Alberta economy. The topics of Aboriginal and transcultural mental health research, as well as increasing the capacity for knowledge exchange will be incorporated into the four proposed themes, with each of the four to be further reviewed by the Research Partnership Committee.

We would like to thank all participants for their contribution. For more information about the process please visit [www.amhb.ab.ca](http://www.amhb.ab.ca), which currently provides a link to the discussion paper entitled, "Establishing the Mental Health Research Agenda: Setting Priorities for Mental Health Research In Alberta."

## Mental Health Research Showcase 2006

Showcase 2006 will be held at the Rimrock Resort Hotel in Banff, Alberta from Monday, October 30 to Wednesday, November 1. Featured themes include:

- Innovations to Address the Need-Care Gap
- Mental Health and Addictions
- Economics of Mental Illness- Workplace and Treatment Costs
- Mental Health and Vulnerable Populations (Child/Youth and Aboriginal)

For more information visit our website:  
[www.amhb.ab.ca/What\\_We\\_Do/research/](http://www.amhb.ab.ca/What_We_Do/research/)

## Enthusiastic Response to AMHB Summer Employment Research Program

The AMHB is working with health regions and non-profit organizations to build, enhance, and maintain capacity for conducting applied research in service settings. The AMHB initiated the 10 to 16 week pilot program that runs during the summer of 2006 to increase capacity for mental health research and evidence-based decision-making in the health regions. Interest in the program was outstanding with more than twenty applications being submitted; almost every health region in the province and a variety of non-profit organizations, ranging from service organizations to community-based groups, submitted applications.

Twenty applications were approved. Fifteen were submitted by six health regions and included positions in such areas as Aboriginal mental health, a suicide prevention strategy, measures for prioritizing admission to a treatment facility, a patient satisfaction questionnaire, and a review of best practices in a health region. The remaining subsidies were awarded to non-profit organizations who submitted proposals for positions involving: evaluation of an outpatient addiction program; an exploration of social and community concerns in an aboriginal community in Northern Alberta; and an assessment of a non-profit organization's diversity program.

For more general information about the program please visit the research section of the AMHB website at [www.amhb.ab.ca](http://www.amhb.ab.ca). On the request of organizations, we will be posting position description or links to these positions.

## For More Information

For information about mental health research program activities contact:

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