

**A M H B**

ALBERTA MENTAL HEALTH BOARD

*... Advancing Mental Health*

# Mental Health Research Program Progress Update

September/October 2006

## Health Technology Skills Development Training in Mental Health

The Alberta Mental Health Board (AMHB) and the Institute of Health Economics (IHE) worked together to create an opportunity for post-graduate training in the IHE health technology assessment (HTA) skills development program. A qualified candidate will be recruited for a six-month period to explore ways in which mental health systems and services delivery can be improved and evidence can be used to guide policy and practice.

The pilot program will be evaluated on its ability to build capacity in the use of HTA for policy development and decision-making; the production of a relevant and timely report whose uses include informing decision-makers and the public; and development of a research transfer or dissemination plan.

## Mental Health Research Initiatives Within Aboriginal Communities

A recent research collaboration agreement between the AMHB, the University of Alberta Hospital, Caritas Health Group, and Aboriginal communities in Alberta aims to improve the mental health and well-being of Canadian Aboriginal families, children and youth – within the context of their own communities. The partnership supports a series of collaborative research projects in communities.

## Mental Health Research Showcase 2006

*Rimrock Resort Hotel, Banff, Alberta**Monday, October 30 to Wednesday, November 1*

Advance registrations will be accepted until October 20, 2006. To view the Showcase program visit <http://www.buksa.com/showcase/program.asp>

## Recruitment of Research Chairs to Advance Mental Health

In October 2005 the AMHB and the Minister of Health and Wellness announced that the Alberta Centennial Mental Health Research Chairs Program, a cornerstone of the Mental Health Research Partnership Program, would receive \$3 million in funding over a five-year period. Nine research chairs will be recruited during the next three to five years to advance the mental health research agenda in Alberta.

The program's goal is to attract high quality mid to senior career scholars to the province with the expectation that through their leadership, links between researchers and the health regions will be strengthened.

The immediate priority is to recruit chairs working in mental health services and population health research with expertise in the four mental health priority themes: effectiveness of mental health services and systems, child and adolescent mental health, mental illness and addictions, and workplace mental health. A recruitment protocol has been developed with members of the Research Partnership Committee including the universities of Lethbridge, Calgary and Alberta; the health regions and the Alberta Heritage Foundation for Medical Research.

Five key principles will guide 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.

## For More Information

For information about mental health research program activities contact:

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