



Announcement - Creating Together: a research agenda for mental health and addictions in Ontario

June 18, 2010

How can funders of research and scientists help to ensure that stakeholders have access to and use the latest research available? One of the best ways to support the integration of research in developing evidence-based policy and practice is through early involvement of stakeholders in the research process.

This is what the Ontario Mental Health and Addictions Knowledge Exchange Network (OMHAKEN), in partnership with a range of organizations, is planning to do with a province-wide consultation process called Creating Together. Through a series of face-to-face, video-conference and electronic consultations, OMHAKEN will seek input from a broad range of users of research across the province, including consumer/survivors, family members, clinicians, service providers, policy makers and government staff, as well as researchers themselves, to co-create a research agenda that will help guide research and knowledge exchange activity in Ontario over the next 3- 5 years.

Invited stakeholders will be asked to comment on a draft health services/systems and population/public health theme and topic list, to identify what is missing and what needs to be prioritized. This initial draft theme and topic list is based on a preliminary scan of mental health and addiction priorities already identified in the province.

Face-to-face consultations will take place in Thunder Bay, London, Ottawa and Toronto, from mid-June to mid-July. Consultations via video-conference will take place in northern Ontario, in Timmins, North Bay, Sudbury, Kenora and Sault Ste. Marie. Video-conference locations for southern Ontario are still to be determined.

Dr. Paula Goering with the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health and who initiated OMHAKEN, comments, "By consulting with a diversity of research users and researchers, not only will we jointly create a research agenda, but we will also further strengthen the relationships between users of research and scientists that are so important to facilitating the use of research in the mental health and addictions systems."

It is anticipated that, eventually, results of Creating Together will benefit consumer/survivors and family members by developing the knowledge to create stronger mental health and addictions systems.

The following Co-Sponsors and Supporters are partnering with OMHAKEN on the Creating Together project.

Co-Sponsors:

Centre for Addiction and Mental Health
Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences
Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care
Ontario HIV Treatment Network
Rainbow Health Ontario
Seniors Health Research Transfer Network

Co-Sponsors have agreed to use the results of the process in some way to influence their own research activities.

Supporters:

Addictions Ontario
Canadian Mental Health Association, Ontario
Echo: Improving Women's Health in Ontario
Ontario Common Assessment of Need
Ontario Federation of Community Mental Health and Addictions Programs
Ontario Mental Health Foundation
Ontario Peer Development Initiative
Provincial Centre of Excellence for Child and Youth Mental Health at the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario

Supporters are organizations that support the Creating Together process.

For more information on Creating Together, visit www.creatingtogether.net, or contact Nandini Saxena, Communications Associate, 416-535-8501 ext. 6465, email: Nandini_saxena@camh.net