



Position Title: Facilitator, National Consumer Panel, At Home/Chez Soi Project
Title of Immediate Supervisor: Project Manager, At Home/Chez Soi Project
Position Status: Part-time, term certain – approximately 8-10 hours per week, ending March 31, 2013

Overview of Mental Health Commission of Canada

The Mental Health Commission of Canada (MHCC) is a non-profit organization created to focus national attention on mental health issues and to work to improve the health and social outcomes of people living with mental illness.

The Commission, while funded by the Government of Canada is a national body, not a federal one. It has been endorsed by all levels of government, although the Commission operates at arms length from them.

The Commission is currently working on five key initiatives:

1. A mental health strategy
2. An anti-stigma campaign
3. Homelessness research demonstration project – At Home/Chez Soi project
4. A Knowledge Exchange Centre
5. The Partners for Mental Health Program

Purpose of the Project/Work Unit

The At Home/Chez Soi project is a national research demonstration project in mental health and homelessness that is being implemented in five cities – Vancouver, Winnipeg, Toronto, Montreal and Moncton.

The project is testing *Housing First* with supports in the Canadian context. *Housing First* is an approach to ending homelessness and helping individuals who are dealing with mental health issues become better integrated into their communities. A total of 2,285 people who are homeless and mentally ill will participate in this five-year project. 1,325 individuals from this group will be provided with a place to live and will be offered services to assist them in their recovery. All services and supports are based on individual participant choice, including the choice of where to live. A comparison between different *Housing First* approaches and “care as usual” is being studied in all cities.

This \$110 million project, funded by Health Canada is the largest of its kind underway in the world right now. The overall goal is to provide evidence about what services and systems could best help people across Canada who are living with a mental illness and are also homeless. At the same time, the project will provide immediate, meaningful and practical support for hundreds of vulnerable Canadians.

Role Overview

Reporting to the Project Manager, At Home/Chez Soi Project, and in partnership with the Consumer Research Consultant, the Facilitator, National Consumer Panel assists in supporting the participation of people with lived experience of homelessness/mental illness throughout a multi-city research demonstration project. The part-time Facilitator is a person with lived experience of homelessness and/or mental illness and acts as Chair of the National Consumer Panel, an advisory and referral group made up of 10 consumer members representing all five sites, and the Consumer Research Consultant.

Key Responsibilities

- In collaboration with the Consumer Research Consultant, assists in ensuring the participation of persons with lived experience in all aspects of the project
- Act as chair of the National Consumer Panel (NCP) including:
 - Chairing monthly NCP meetings (9 teleconferences and 3 in-person meetings per year)
 - Responsible for setting monthly agendas, following up on action items and minutes
 - Organizing all aspects of NCP meetings, both teleconferences and in-person meetings
 - Working with members to ensure that their local issues receive national consideration
 - Working with members to ensure that they remain connected to NCP through email, fax and telephone
 - Ensuring that the needs for participants are met i.e. travel, honoraria and accessibility
- Works closely with the Consumer Research Consultant to ensure knowledge exchange from the National Project Team, National Working Group, National Research Team and Safety and Adverse Events Committee is transferred effectively to the NCP
- Assists the Consumer Research Consultant in ensuring NCP issues, recommendations are brought back to the appropriate national or local committee or group
- Provides ongoing peer support to members of NCP during and between NCP meetings
- Is the first line for problem solving and conflict remediation within the NCP
- Keeps Project Manager and Consumer Research Consultant informed regarding emerging issues and challenges that may impact the success of the National Consumer Panel
- Other related duties as requested

Qualifications & Skills

Education:

- A minimum Bachelor's degree in Social Work, Counseling Psychology or related
- Masters degree in Social Work or Counseling Psychology preferred
- Training in peer support an asset

Required Experience:

- Experience in community-based organizing
- Experience in organizing, maintaining and facilitating supportive group environments
- Experience in fostering/developing consumer participation/representation processes
- Lived experience of homelessness and/or mental illness

Knowledge of:

- Knowledge of the At Home/Chez Soi Project
- Knowledge or participatory research

Skills and Abilities:

- Demonstrated ability to collaborate with a broad spectrum of stakeholders e.g. persons with lived experience, family members, service providers and policy makers
- Well developed skills in communication, negotiation/mediation, working with others and self awareness
- Strong organizational skills
- Project management and communication skills, both written and verbal
- Appreciation of value of evidence informed decision making and policy
- Proactive/solution-focused attitude; Recognizes potential obstacles and works to resolve them
- Understands the needs of others; Flexible and open to change
- Conscientious and precise delivery of work even when under pressure
- Computer skills including use of SharePoint, internet, Microsoft Word, Excel and Outlook
- Must be able to travel
- Bilingual in French and English an asset

To apply for this position, please send your cover letter and resume (in MS Word or Adobe PDF format only and include “**Facilitator, National Consumer Panel, At Home/Chez Soi Project** in the subject line) to: Natalie Murphy, Mental Health Commission of Canada at nmurphy@mentalhealthcommission.ca by **Monday, February 08, 2010.**

The Mental Health Commission of Canada would like to thank all applicants for submitting their applications, however only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.